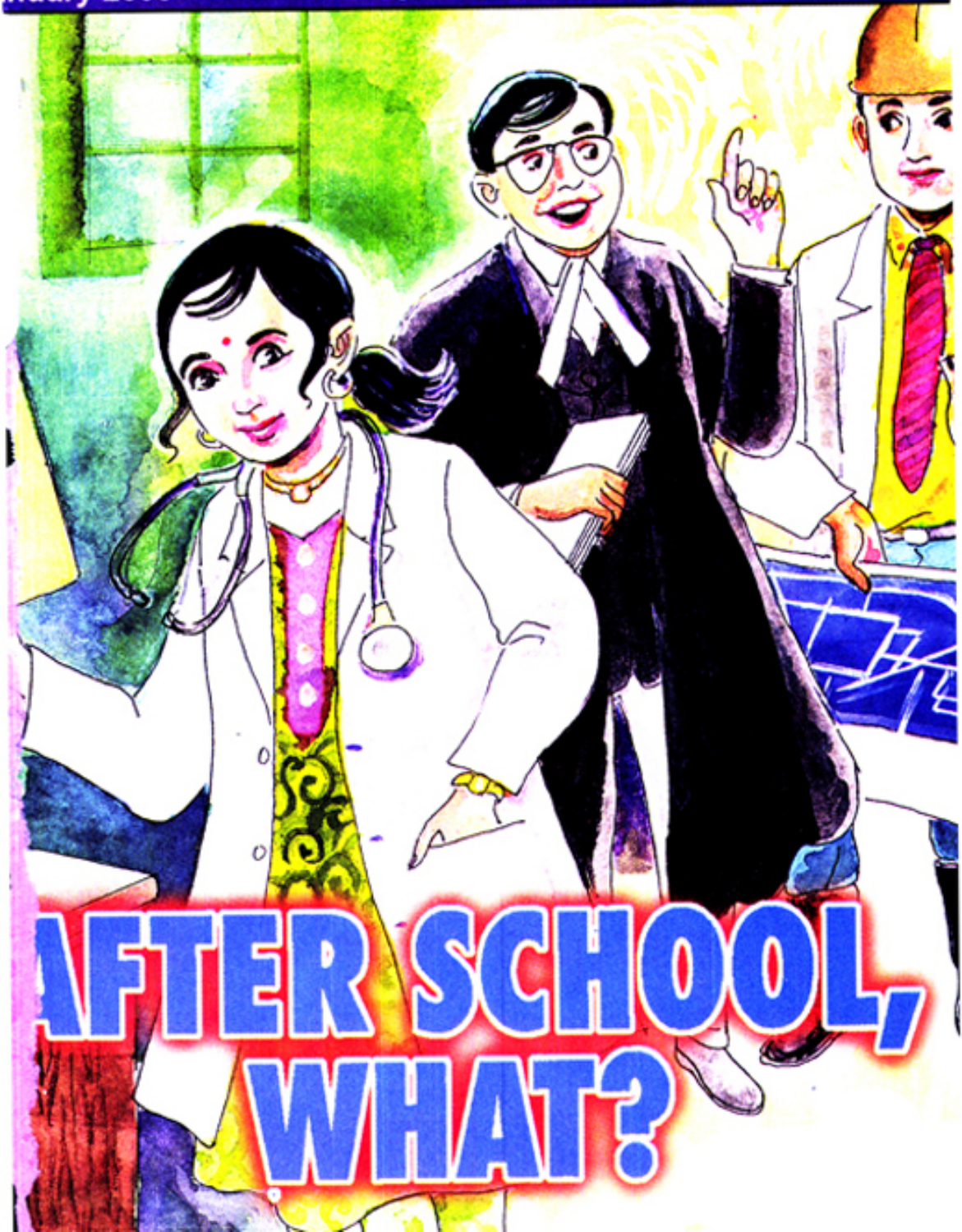
# GOKULAM

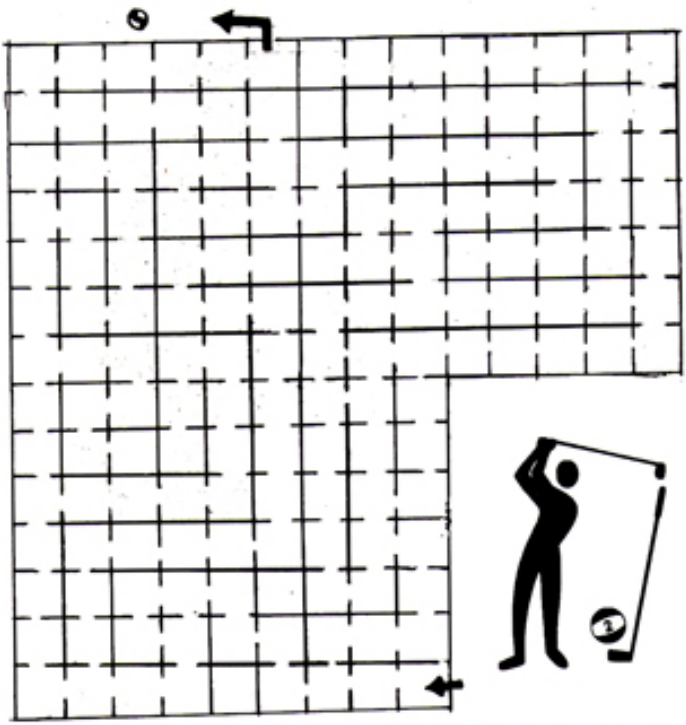
nuary 2000 *The monthly magazine for children* Rs. 6/-



# AFTER SCHOOL, WHAT?

## JOIN THE DOTS

## HELP THE GOLFER TO FIND HIS BALL



Preeti Gaud, age 13,
ICL School, Vashi, Navi, Mumbai.

**Father** : Do you know your classteacher's name?

**Son** : No. He has recently joined. We are trying to find out a suitable name for him.

K. Mahalakshmi,
Villupuram

**Baker** : Madam, these are the best cakes we have had for years.

**Lady** : I would like to have some which you baked more recently please.

M. Subodh Shetty,
Bangalore.

# GOKULAM

Vol. XII, No. 7 JANUARY 2000

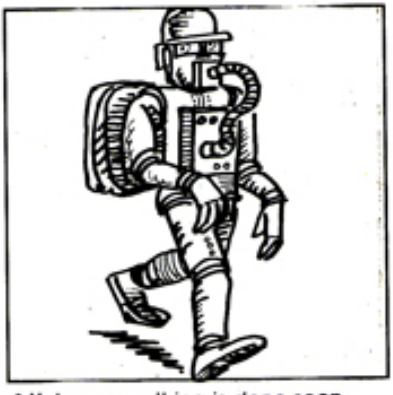

*Dear children,*

*Everybody is excited about the new millennium and there is a lot of talk on the scientific advancements made during the last century.*

*There in no denying that during the 20th century man has made great strides. Living has become more purposeful and easy. But many of these scientific achievements also bring fresh problems with them.*

*Man destroyed forests to bring more area under agriculture and for the wood, pulp etc. Lack of rainforests has resulted in drought. Pesticides that protect crops are definitely harmful to man. Atomic power stations are never 100% safe. Disposing off the nuclear waste is a big headache even in the most advanced of nations. Atomic bombs, global warming and depleting ozone layer threaten the very existence of mankind.*

*Computers are a big boon, but the Y2K problems stares us in the eye. The internet helps in information explosion but tempts man to indulge in unhealthy practices. Television brings the world into our drawing room but it also produces 'couch potatoes' and nobody has an antidote for this. Smoking was once fashionable and hailed as a great invigorator. But everyone now knows that it causes cancer.*



* Unless something is done soon, children may be forced to wear special dresses to avoid automobile exhaust fumes!

*Plastic, welcomed as a revolutionary discovery, is now a matter of grave concern to environmentalists. It is not biodegradable and causes so much pollution. No one knows how to tackle the situation. Rockets and satellites sent into orbit, after becoming spent forces, are now converting outerspace into a junk yard.*

*While we look forward to the 21st century and more scientific discoveries and innovations, we should also bear in mind that any discovery must be in tune with nature. Anything which is not, will upset our natural way of life and will harm us. We must be on guard to avoid this.*

*Science must serve nature and must not be allowed to boss over it. If we permit this we become slaves of our own innovations!*

*Love.*

*K. Rajendran.*
*Editor*

***Of all created things the loveliest,***
***And most divine are children.***
***— William Canton***

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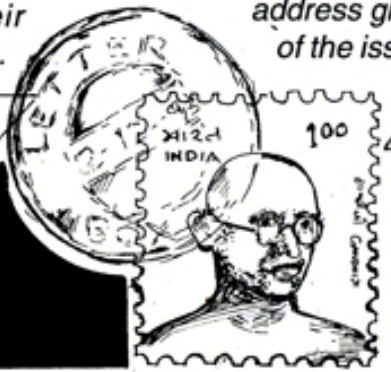
**Cover Illustration : CHELLAPPAN**

# LETTER BOX




✉ I am a teacher of English and have been reading your magazine for about 10 years. Actually, Gokulam is a gift to the Sri Lankan students who live in small towns like ours. It improves their knowledge of English. I introduced your magazine to about 3000 students. They would like to send articles, poems, puzzles and sketches. Will you publish them in your magazine?

**A.A. Nazeer, Director,**
**Royal Engg. Academy,**
**Sammanthurai, Sri Lanka.**

*Dear Mr. Nazeer,*
*We thank you for your interest in the magazine. Please do ask your students to send their contributions to Gokulam. We will try to publish as many of them as possible.*

✉ I like your magazine very much. Don't allot a separate page for jokes. I like to hunt for them.

**K. Badrinath, Std. VIII B,**
**Sainikpuri HS, Secunderabad.**

✉ I am a regular reader of the magazine. I find all features very interesting and useful. How do I send in articles?

**N. Abhinav Kumar, Std. V B,**
**St. Xavier's HS, Aurangabad.**

*Dear Abhinav,*
*You may send your articles to the address given in the last page of the issue. Please be sure to include your name, age or class, name of school and your full house address.*

✉ Please include more comics. Can I send in puzzles and items for creative corner?

**Divya Rashmi, Std. IV C,**
**Church School, Jamshedpur.**

*Dear Divya, Please read the reply given to Abhinav Kumar.*

✉ I have been reading your magazine since 1998. Please publish more paintings. No other book can compete with Gokulam.

**X. Sindhuja, Std. IX,**
**RSK HS School, Trichy.**

# ALL IN A DAY

One day Birbal was relaxing at home when he had a visitor. It was a soldier from King Akbar's court.

The soldier bowed before Birbal and said, "His majesty wants to see you right away."

Birbal accompanied the soldier to the king's palace.

Akbar received Birbal warmly and said, "I have a question and I know only you can satisfy my curiosity."

Birbal who was wise to the ways of the king, replied, "I shall try to answer your question, o king."

Akbar asked, "How much time will it take for me to go around the earth?"

Birbal thought for a while and then said, "If your majesty rose with the sun and rode by its side across the sky, you would ride round the earth in a day." Akbar was pleased with Birbal's witty answer and rewarded him with a diamond ring.

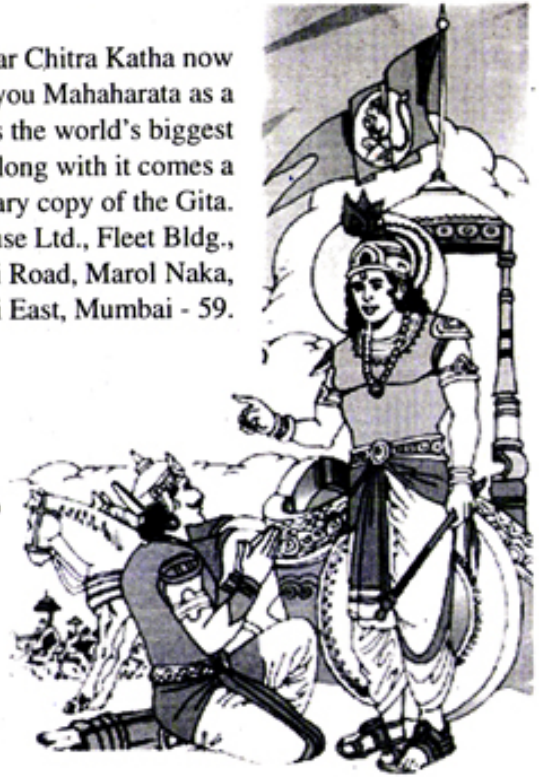
**S. Janaki, Std. V, Madurai.**

*Dear Janaki, pl. send in the name of your school.*

# BIGGEST COMIC

Amar Chitra Katha now brings you Mahaharata as a comic. The 1400 page venture is the world's biggest comic. It is priced Rs. 980. Along with it comes a complimentary copy of the Gita.

India Book House Ltd., Fleet Bldg., Mathuradas Vasanji Road, Marol Naka, Andheri East, Mumbai - 59.



# CULINARY FIASCO

"Let's help Mama and Papa around the house and surprise them!" suggested Brother Undir one day.

"What made you say that?" asked Sister Undir.

"Well, you see, my Social Studies teacher has asked us to do an assignment. We have to help our parents at home and write about it!"

"And I thought you were suddenly becoming good!"

"I'm serious! I did think it was a good idea. And I do want to help. But how?" Brother wanted Sister to suggest something.

"Let's help in the kitchen. Mama and Papa are not yet back from work. Why don't we boil the milk, so one job will be done."

So Sister and Brother removed milk packets from the fridge. There were always a few extra packets in the freezer for emergencies. Mama Undir boiled milk at nights to save time in the mornings. Besides, Sister and Brother preferred to drink cold milk in the morning. "Are you sure we need four packets?" asked Brother.

Now neither of them knew how many packets Mama boiled everyday. "Well, it's better not to be short. So I guess four should be fine!"

Sister snipped them open. Brother got the milk pot out and poured the milk in. One packet, two packets, three... "Hey! The pot is full and overflowing! What do I do with the rest of this milk?"

Sister realised that they had taken too much. Two was the right number. "It's too late to put back any. We shouldn't have

UNDIR STORY

opened all four!"

So they put the remaining one and half packets of milk in another vessel and put it back in the fridge. "I want to light the gas!" said Brother. "No, you're too small! I'll do it!" said Sister.

"Hey, its my homework, not yours!" protested Brother. So finally after striking many matches he finally had the milk pot on the gas. Sister and Brother Undir waited.

"It's taking too long!" complained Brother.

"Why don't we do something else meanwhile?" suggested Sister Undir.

"I'm putting on some water to boil. We can make tea for Papa and Mama. It will be ready by the time they get home!" said Brother. He put on a large pot of water on the gas.

"It's Friday. Papa likes coffee on weekends. Why don't we make some coffee too?" said Sister, bringing out the double decker coffee maker.

"Sure! Mama will be really pleased!"

"And so will Papa!" The two young Undirs were really out to help.

Suddenly there was a hiss and sizzle. The milk was boiling over! Brother watched aghast. "Do something!" shouted Sister. "What?" demanded Brother. The milk just kept bubbling out of the pot and turning into brown crust on the gas range. Finally Sister Undir had the presence of mind to turn off the gas. Just then they noticed that the water had started boiling too.

"Quick! Take out some tea leaves!" exclaimed Sister Undir.

"I want to make the tea!" said Brother.

"Okay! Meanwhile I'll find the coffee powder" said Sister.

Without thinking, Brother hurriedly put some tea in the top part of the coffee maker and pressed it down. Then he poured hot water on it, waiting for it to trickle down. Meanwhile Sister

had the coffee powder ready and was looking for the coffee maker. "Hurry up!" Brother said. His hand was hurting because he was awkwardly holding the hot water, waiting to use up the rest of it for coffee. "I'm trying!" replied Sister, "But where has the coffee maker gone?"

Suddenly there was a crash and a scream! "Ooo! Ouuu!" cried Brother as the hot vessel slipped and fell on the floor. Poor Brother! His feet were burning and he jumped up and down. Sister panicked. She spilled all the coffee powder on the floor. "Oh God!" she shouted.

That was when Papa Undir walked in. "What's all this mess?" he demanded. Mama also returned and went to put away her bag. "Have you both had your milk?" she asked without noticing what was going on.

"Come here Mama. Soon! See what these two have been up to!" called out Papa Undir.

"I want an explanation. And it had better be good!" demanded Papa.

"Its only homework!" wailed poor Brother. "Miss said...."

Mama was puzzled. Papa was furious. "Don't try to bring your Miss into this!"

"But it is true!" protested Brother, as he started to cry.

"We only wanted to help in the kitchen. We boiled the milk, but it boiled over...." Sister tried to explain.

"Mmmm! U-u-u! Miss said to help parents. So we were trying to make tea for you!"

"And also coffee!" Sister continued.

"And I have to write it up as Social Studies assignment!"

Soon the whole story came tumbling out. Brother hugged Mama. Sister hugged Papa. The parents understood what was going on. "Here is another idea for the assignment. OPERATION CLEAN THE KITCHEN!" suggested Papa. "But first let us all have tea!" suggested Mama.

She poured out the brew from the coffee maker. It had become a rather strong tea. "I'll show you how to dilute it a little by adding boiling water. And you should not put tea in the coffee maker!" Brother laughed at his mistake.

Meanwhile Papa took the coffee maker and asked Brother to clean it. He showed Brother how to put coffee powder in the upper deck and press it down. "Then comes the hot water."

While Papa and Brother were busy with the coffee, Mama got the tea ready. "Extra milk and sugar for me!" That was Brother. "Very little milk but lots of sugar for me!" said Sister. "Regular tea for me!" said Papa. "And also for me!" laughed Mama.

After tea Brother and Sister helped in cleaning up the milk mess. They learnt not only how to make tea and coffee properly, but also how to manage milk! "I'll never again put half used packets back in the fridge" said Brother. "And you must always keep an eye on the milk, or it can trick you!" said Sister. "No point having to scrub dried and blackened milk off the stove and the pot!" agreed Brother.

"But most important, instead of helping on just one day, wouldn't it be nicer if you took over one chore on a regular basis?" suggested Papa.

"That way we won't have to guess who's going to do the task" agreed Mama Undir, "and it would be a real help."

"Not milk!" laughed Sister. "I think I'll take charge of folding clothes!"

"I'm braver, I'll make tea!" offered Brother.

Let's wait and see how their good resolutions are going to turn out!

**ANURADHA KHATI**

# FACTS about COCKROACHES

The cockroach is one of Earth's oldest creatures which has learnt more about survival than any other.

Cockroaches can live anywhere from the middle of the Sahara desert to the kitchens in freezing laboratories. Cockroaches have been found, comfortably housed in cash registers and market scales, radio and T.V. sets, refrigerators and cupboards. There are about 3,500 species of cockroaches, and only 1% of them live in homes of humans.

A large part of the cockroach's ability to survive comes from its ability to eat anything. Its taste includes everything from flower buds to shoes. It eats its own cast-off and of its own species. A cockroach can live for a month without any food or water, two months on water alone, five months on dry food but no water.

Some species are large, with almost 6 centimetre bodies. Others are smaller than grains of rice. Cockroaches have two antennae. Longer than itself, the antennae help the cockroach to feel its way. They also help the cockroach to stroke a lady cockroach affectionately!

The cockroach has two sensitive 'compound' eyes and three 'simple' eyes on the top of its head. Cockroaches are far tougher than a 35 ton dinosaur. Step on him, and his hard body saves him; the moment the pressure is removed, he runs away. He can go through the smallest cracks.

Females of the species have produced 180 baby cockroaches in 303 days. Some species hatch eggs within their bodies to produce live young. Other species carry 12 - 40 eggs in neat little purse-shaped bags.

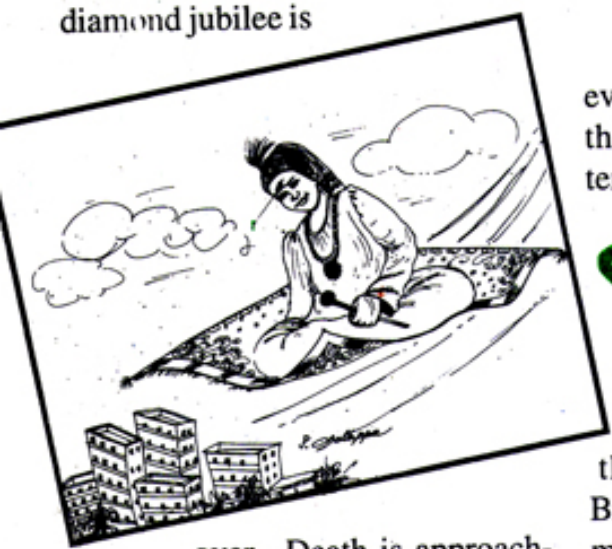
Because of their ability to survive and their rapid breeding, cockroaches are used in cancer and heart-disease research. Many species serve man by eating dead vegetation that would otherwise fill up the forest.

**Hemanth Vamanshankar, age 14, St. Joseph's Boys High School, Bangalore.**

# The centur

The carpet flew swiftly. The button announced the arrival of the 20th century. I was led into the chamber of Queen Victoria, the Empress of India and the monarch of the largest empire in history after Rome.

"Singh," the Queen looked sad and told her Sikh servant, "The diamond jubilee is



over. Death is approaching. What an Empire I have presided over!"

The carpet then took me to Rudyard Kipling's room. His 1897 poem, 'The Recessional' was being read by the poet to his children.

"Lest we forget, lest we forget," the poet's stern voice dreaded the end of British glory.

In January 1901, the great Queen passed away. And with her ended the Victorian era.

I moved on. Fresh winds blew all over the world. People were crying for change. Women wanted freedom. Gandhiji was talking about Satyagraha in India. A group of Russian workers were listening to the intrepid bearded Lenin. He was talking about freedom from the Tsars. There was talk about freedom and revolution everywhere. In India, China and Russia.

'Vande Mataram' - the cry was everywhere in India. I saw it all - the murder of Ashe, the Bengal terrorists, Bharati, Tagore. And a host of other great men who gave their lives for liberation from British yoke. I felt a chill pass down my spine as I saw the Mahatma picking salt from Dandi.

England was changing. Women were allowed to vote. T.S Eliot and Ezra Pound were bringing in a revolution in English poetry. I saw Eliot putting the finishing touches to *The Wasteland* — 'Da, Dutta, Dayadhvam. Shanti, Shanti, Shanti'. The British intelligensia was discussing the revolution in Russia. The Tsars had been over-thrown and Lenin had taken over.

The carpet took me to France. At Ecole Normale - France's premier

University - Sartre, Camns and Simone de Beavoier were discussing existentialism. In Germany Adolf Hitler was writing Mein Kempf in jail. New writers were emerging - Kafka, Mann, Rilke — and new techniques were emerging in Euro- pean literature.

Back in India, I visited my home town, Benaras. I heard that the Vice-chancellor of the University there was a giving a lecture. I caught my first glimpse of the turbaned Sir Radhakrishnan who left us spell-bound. The talk was given without

*hat was*

* Gandhiji and Rabindranath Tagore

any notes and delivered in the best English I have ever heard.

"Karo ya maro" — India was in fury. Non-violent agitators were facing lathi charges stoically inspired by Gandhiji. Meanwhile the Second World War had broken out.

The carpet took me to Aushwitz. I cannot but shed a tear or two while mentioning the extermination of innumerable Jews in concentration camps. I also saw Anne Frank working meticulously on her diary. England under Churchill defiantly faced Nazi attacks.

'Never have so many depended so much on so few,' thundered Churchill referring to the British war-plane pilots.

"At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the whole world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom," Pandit Nehru was at his oratorial best. On that midnight the Mahatma was in Noa- khali - East Bengal - wiping the tears of vic- tims of communal riots. India was partitioned.

Sardar Patel — India's Iron Man - united single handedly the 600 odd princely states of India and laid the foundation of a United India.

The Mahatma was assassinated by a fanatic; he fell down with the cry 'Hey Ram!'

The map of the world was changing. Britain no longer dominated.

It was the period of the cold war — Soviet Russia versus America.

• Anne Frank, the teenager who was a witness and a victim of World War II's brutalities

China was undergoing a cultural revolution under Mao and Cuba had Fidel Castro. The Black Rights Movement was popular in America. And then man landed on the moon.

The carpet moved swiftly. The air was changing and I felt very suffocated. 'Air pollution, Global Warming', I heard new concepts. Then came the Emergency in India, the growth of computers under Rajiv Gandhi and the Mandal agitations. At last in 1999, Mr. Vajpayee got a well-deserved victory. India is in safe hands as it moves towards the 21st century.

Meanwhile the world had altered completely. Soviet Russia was gone. There were stock exchanges in China. My granddaughter was using computer at Beneras. Crossing the roads was difficult for me. There were cars here, cars there and cars everywhere. In my days there were only carriages and bullock-carts.

• Rocket launch

• PCs are becoming common-place even in Indian schools

'Welcome 21st century' children waved flags every- where and greeted each other. They were no different than the ones that Wordsworth had described as the 'father of man'. In these children lies the future of the next century.

The carpet moved on.

**R. SUBRAMONY,**
**Chennai.**

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**THE CIRCULATION MANAGER**

**GOKULAM (English)**

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# THE UNWANTED

My sister and I were walking back home. It was twilight. We were busy talking about the birthday party we had just attended at a friend's place.

Something furry grazed my shin as I stopped to look at a flower in the shrub. I looked down. It was a black puppy. Probably six or seven

weeks old. I looked around. "It's mother or brothers are not in sight," my sister supplied.

"What shall we do?" I asked. I knew my sister would jump at the idea of having a pet. What would our parents say?

I too wanted a pet badly.

"Let us avoid it," I suggested. "Walk fast." That seemed to set matters at rest. My sister and I walked as fast as we could without appearing to run! We looked back. The puppy was still following us.

"What now?" my sister asked.

We had reached home by now. We looked back. To our surprise the puppy had followed us home. He was wagging his tail furiously.

Mother who watched the little tableau from the living room, suggested to us that we could have him for a pet. We shouted with joy. Jimmy soon became a part of our family.

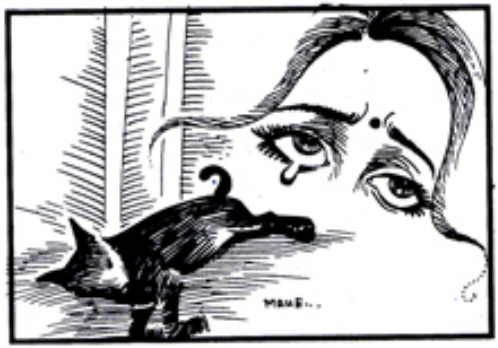
He had a place to sleep, a dish to eat out of and a rug to snuggle into at night. Jimmy guarded the house for us. He was an excellent playmate too.

Jimmy was over an year old now. He was fiercely possessive and was loved by everyone in the family. One evening in March father rushed out of the bathroom

shouting, "Snake.. snake...."

He asked for a torch light. While we were rummaging through the cupboard for the torch light, father asked, "Where's Jimmy?"

I suggested that Jimmy could be in the garden. We found the torch finally. Father stumbled on something on his way to the bathroom. He flashed the torch. There lay Jimmy frothing at the mouth. He died on father's lap. The snake had by then disappeared



into the bushes beyond our compound.

Jimmy had sacrificed his life and saved us. My family and I are proud of Jimmy.

**Nitya Venugopal,**
**Std. VIII A,**
**Seventh Day Adventist HS, Ottapalam.**

# A THREE DIGIT GAME

Step 1 :

Ask your friend to think of a three digit number and write the same side by side to make it a six-digit number (Suppose she had thought of 687. — 687687).

Step 2 :

Ask her to divide the new number by 7. (687687 ÷ 7 = 98241).

Step 3 :

Ask her to divide the quotient by 11 and pass on the quotient to you. (98241 ÷ 11 = 8931).

Step 4 :

Now divide the number given to you by 13 and tell your friend the answer. It will be the first number thought by her. (8931 ÷ 13 = 687)!

**M. Iswarya, age 13,**
**SBOA School,**
**Chennai.**

# OUR REPUBLIC DAY

India observes 26th January as the Republic Day. It was on this day in 1930 that the poorna swaraj resolution was adopted. The festivities are spectacular in the capital. The day is celebrated with pomp and pageantry. Watched by a vast multitude of people the parade begins at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan, the presidential residence. The winding parade passes through the heart of the city and ends at the historic Red Fort in Old Delhi.

It is a special day for India. On this day in 1950, the country became a sovereign, democratic republic with a written constitution and an elected parliament. Children of various schools in and outside Delhi also participate in this colourful festivity.

India was a union of 565 princely states at the time of Independence. These states were ruled by powerful sovereigns who were protected by treaties of alliance with the British crown.

Without bringing them together unity of the nation was not possible. Sardar Vallabhai Patel helped to integrate the country into one nation, without bitterness or fighting. In less than two years, all princely states became a part of the Republic of India. The first Republic Day parade was held at Irwin Stadium (the present national stadium).

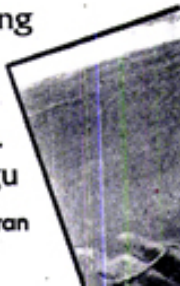
Here are some English words derived from Indian languages.

Catamaran — The Tamil equivalent is kattu maram. Three or four logs of wood are leashed together to form a raft.

Buck — Derived from the Hindi word - 'buk-buk'. It means prattle or boastful talk.

Dingy — A small boat for use during emergencies. It is a derivation of the Hindi word - Ding.

Mulligatawny — Seasoned soup. A derivation of Tamil word - milagu



* Catamaran

Three days later, on the evening of January 29 every year, a stirring ceremony known as 'Beating the Retreat' is held. An ancient military custom has been revived.

In olden days drummers were sent through the streets just before sunset. They would warn the troops to return to their barracks before their colours were hauled down for the night. Certain changes have been made in this custom. The plaintive notes of the old hymn, *Abide With Me* (also a favourite of Gandhiji) are played.

The bands then fall silent although the hymn is not concluded. In the poignant silence a solitary bugler takes up the hymn's refrain. Thus it is a finale to the Republic Day. It does not fade away, but lingers in our memory.

**Bhavana N. Kakkat, Std. VIII B,**
**Vani Vidhyalaya,**
**Mumbai.**

# Words of INDIAN ORIGIN

- tanneer (pepper water).

Blighty — British army slang for home. A derivative of the Hindi word - 'Bilayati' which means foreign.

Tom - Tom — These are tall, jazz drums. It is taken from the Hindi word 'Tam-Tam'.

Chintz — Printed cotton fabric. A derivative of the Sanskrit word - 'Citra'. It means spotted and diverse in colour.

Gunny — Coarse sack. The original word in Sanskrit 'Goni' meant a sack.

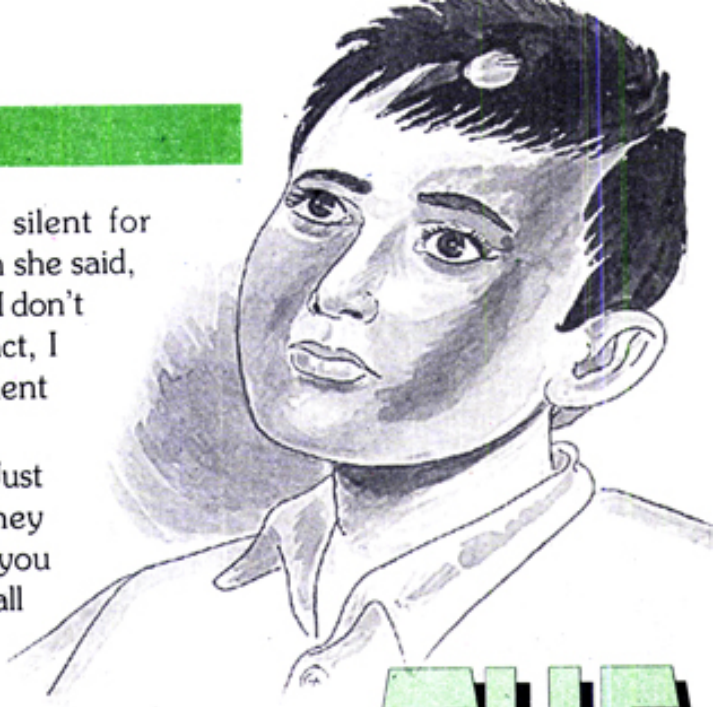
Juggernaut — Relentless force. From Jagganath, the presiding deity at the 12th century temple at Puri, Orissa. The idol of Jagannath is placed on a chariot and taken in a procession every year in Puri. Pilgrims often throw themselves at the wheels of the chariot.

Calico — Plain white, fine textured cotton cloth. It is from Calicut in Kerala, once famous as cotton-weaving centre.

**S. Renganathan, Davangere.**

* The Puri Rath Yatra

PART IV



# THE VILLAGE BOY

Lekha remained silent for sometime. Then she said, "Dad, honestly, I don't know who did it. In fact, I learnt about the incident only later."

"It's okay, darling. Just ask your friends if they know the culprit. If you suspect anyone, just call me immediately."

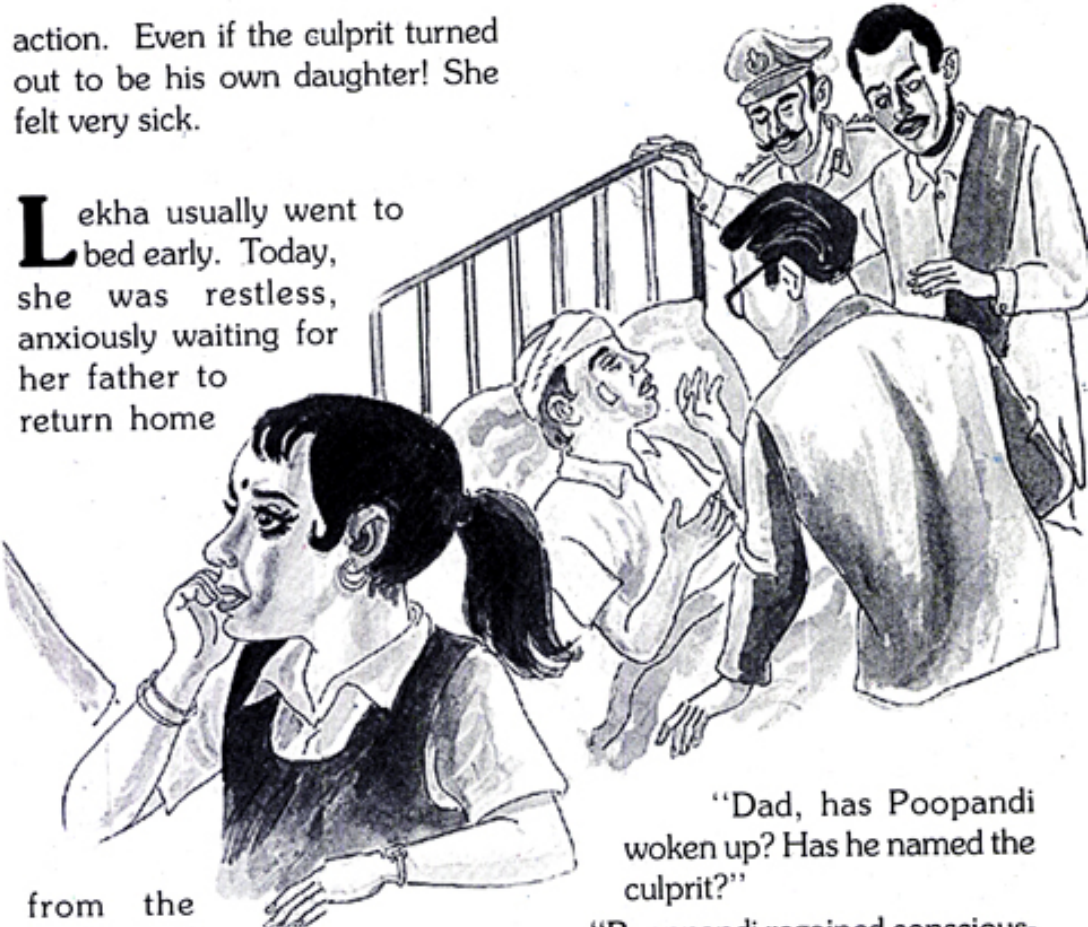
"Yes dad."

"The doctor says Poopandi will regain consciousness by evening. He will definitely remember the culprit. Once we have the information about the wrong-doer, we'll see to it that the culprit is dismissed from the school. The student will be debarred from attending any school in the state. The student will be prosecuted and sent to the juvenile prison. I shall return home only after the culprit is traced. Till then, I shall be in the hospital by the side of Poopandi."

"....."

"Why do you look so worried, darling? Now go to your class. I am going to the hospital to see the Minister's son." Lekha quivered as she walked back to the class. In the class, she could not concentrate on what the teacher taught. What if Poopandi were to disclose Lekha's name in a semi-conscious state? God... her father was a very honest and sincere officer. He would translate the threats into

action. Even if the culprit turned out to be his own daughter! She felt very sick.



Lekha usually went to bed early. Today, she was restless, anxiously waiting for her father to return home from the hospital. She did not know what to pray for! She even thought it would be best if Poopandi died without regaining consciousness. But then, Lekha's conscience would torment her for the rest of her life. Looking back at what had happened she was amazed at her cruelty. What wrong had Poopandi done to deserve such a brutal treatment at her hands?

Lekha's father returned home, exhausted. Lekha didn't even allow her father to relax.

"Dad, has Poopandi woken up? Has he named the culprit?"

"Poonpandi regained consciousness early in the evening. But, when the minister and I asked about the culprit, he said that he had accidentally spilled the acid on himself. The minister repeatedly assured Poopandi that he would come to no harm.

Poopandi was adamant. In fact, he threatened us! He said that if we, officials, did not drop the enquiry immediately, he would not go to school. Nor would he eat or talk with his parents. Finally, the minister gave in. He asked me to

drop the proceedings."

Lekha was thankful that the room was dimly lit. Otherwise, her father may have noticed the tears rolling down her cheeks. The tears wouldn't stop at all!

Lekha took great efforts to compose herself. She whispered, "Dad, will Poopandi be completely alright? Can he return to school? If not now atleast after sometime?"

Lekha's father was pleased that she was concerned about her classmate. He replied:

"Yes darling. The doctor says that Poopandi is completely out of danger. It will take three to four months for a complete recovery and only then can he return to school. The bald patch created by the acid spill will always remind him of the disgusting incident. It is about the size of a one rupee coin."

Lekha wondered how she could thank god.

**To continue,**
**R. Shreedharon,**
**Madurai.**

# THE PILLARS OF HERCULES

The Strait of Gibraltar is also known as the pillars of Hercules. The strait is a narrow water body that connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic ocean. One of the pillars is Gibraltar and the other massive promontory lies across the strait on the African coast. It is probably Mt. Acho, east of Ceuta. The strait is approximately 58 km long and measures 14 km at the narrowest point. The width between the pillars measures 22 km.

Legend has it that the pillars were torn asunder by the great Greek hero, Hercules. He wanted to open the Atlantic ocean into the Mediterranean sea. Some people, however, offer another explanation. Hercules is believed to have built a bridge across the pillars in order to keep out the monsters of the deep.

**Visalakshi Ramani,**
**Coimbatore.**

# THE GREAT BEAR

People called him Ursa Major — the great bear. The years between 1750 and 1785 were dominated by this man. He was also called the khan of literature. Son of a bookseller, Johnson could not finish his studies at Oxford as his father could not pay his fees. After struggle and poverty in London, he brought out the first dictionary of the English language. The state granted him pension which gave him the time and leisure to produce works of criticism — *an edition of Shakespeare, Lives of Poets* — which made him the greatest critic in Western literature. His admirer Boswell wrote what is still the best biography in English language.

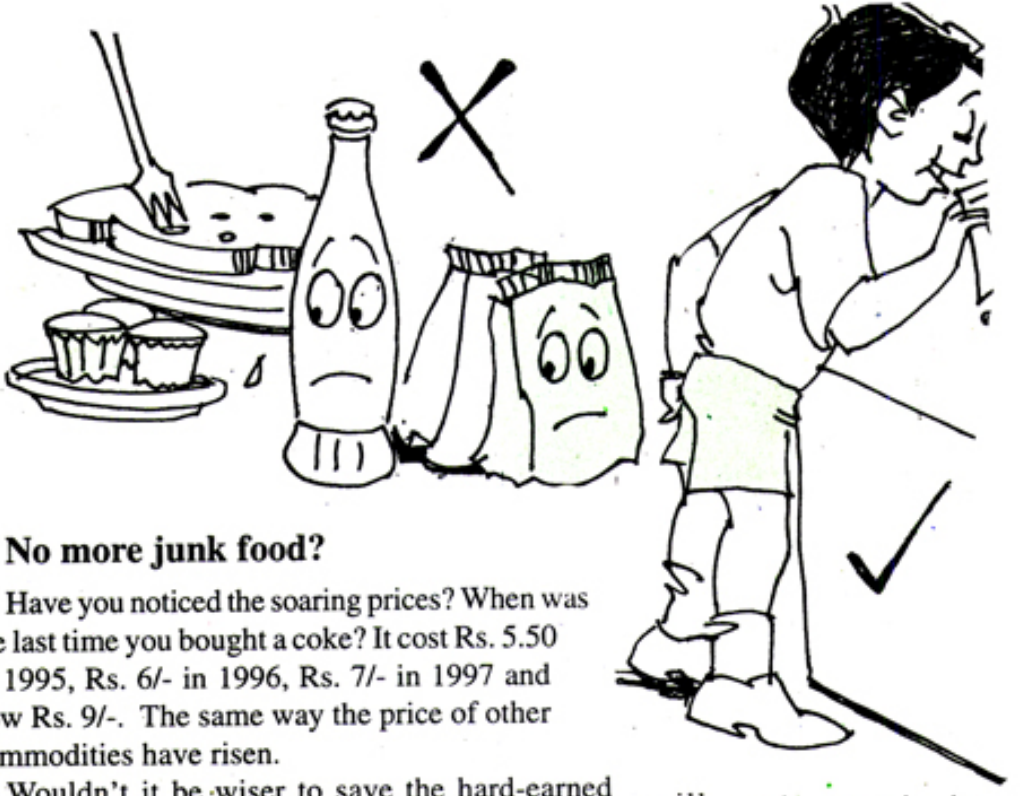
* Dr. Johnson (left) with Oliver Goldsmith, a contemporary writer

## JOHNSON ATONES FOR SIN

At the Uttoxeter market, Lichfield, could be seen a fat, strong man with a long coat standing bare headed during an incessant rain. He did this to atone for the sin of behaving badly to his father 60 years before.

When he was a boy he had objected to accompanying his father to Uttoxeter market where his father kept a bookstall. It was pride that had made him disobey and hence, as an old man, he tried to punish himself. This incident is mentioned in Boswell's famous biography.

**RAJA, Chennai.**



## No more junk food?

Have you noticed the soaring prices? When was the last time you bought a coke? It cost Rs. 5.50 in 1995, Rs. 6/- in 1996, Rs. 7/- in 1997 and now Rs. 9/-. The same way the price of other commodities have risen.

Wouldn't it be wiser to save the hard-earned money of our parents? Why waste it on junk food?

**S. Narendran, Std. VIII B,**
**Indra Nagar HSSS, Chennai.**

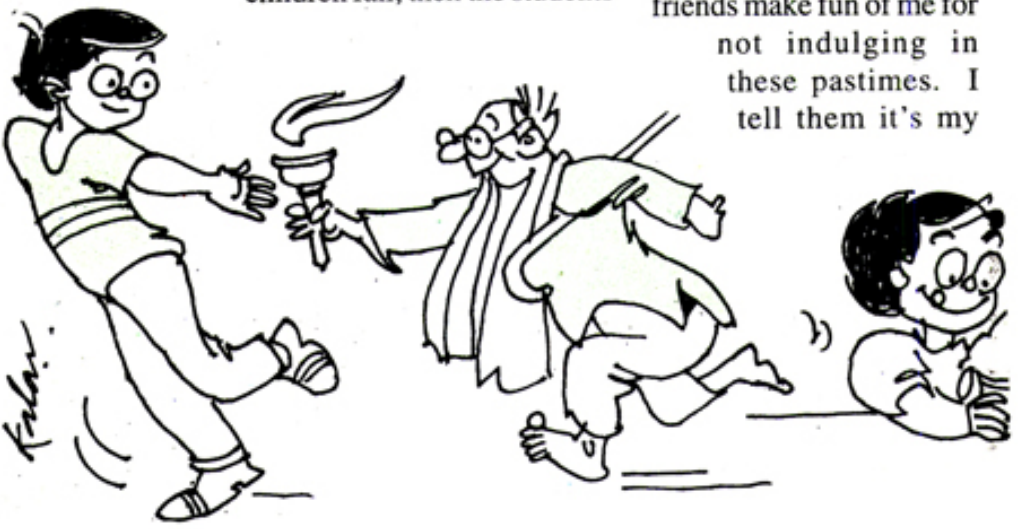
## Love is the mantra

I don't think it is fair on the part of some parents to scold their children for scoring poorly in exams. Weak students should be encouraged to work harder. Love can work wonders where scoldings fail. A child, who is often scolded, will find a way out to give up studies. If parents understood why their children fail, then the students will not resort to malpractices. Nor will they give up on studies.

**A. Asha,**
**Adarsh Vidhyalaya**
**MHSS, Chennai.**

## East vs West

Young boys are often carried away by western habits like drinking and smoking. Some of my friends make fun of me for not indulging in these pastimes. I tell them it's my



# VIEWPOINT

choice. I do not like these habits. There is nothing wrong in welcoming other cultures into our country. But being swept off by them is a different matter. Why should we give up our culture?

**R. Harish, Thane.**

*Dear Harish, pl. send in your age and the name of your school.*

## Do we follow Gandhi?

Though we always talk of ahimsa and love, often we forget their meaning. By remaining a neutral power during the early days of independence we had to spend large amounts of money on gearing up our defence forces. Despite ceding a large part of Kashmir to Pakistan, we are still at war on this issue.

Political parties remember Gandhiji only when they feel it is necessary. Gandhiji's principles are important. Let's make them a platform to show up ourselves as a developed nation.

**R. Nivas, Std. XII E, BHEL Matric., Trichy.**

## A relay race

Life is like a relay race,
Where one generation passes the torch to another.
To live, you have to keep up the pace
And must be ready to reach further.
Life is like an ice cream,
For the time is short,
So enjoy it before it melts
And repent not later.
Life is like a tablet
With an expiry date.
It ends without notice,

So enjoy it before it is too late.

**Deepthi M. Rao, Std. IX,**
**Premodaya MS, Coimbatore.**

## What is a democracy?

Democracy is not a big perplexity in less populated countries like the US. In our country most people live below the poverty line. People struggling for survival would care little about govern-

ment. Distant villages often do not have regular communication channels.

Politicians rarely deliver on their election promises. Vote has become a tradable item. These days governments are formed and the parliament is dissolved almost every year. A five-year term of government has eluded us for a long time now.

Every citizen has the right to vote. Poor voter turnout has made a mockery of democracy in India. How then will democracy thrive in India?

**Om Lakhani, Std. VIII,**
**Anandalaya, Karamsad, Anand.**

## Education today

I agree with Eric Xavier's (Nov. '99) views. Emphasis is on scoring marks and not cultivation of knowledge. Teachers do not cover the whole syllabus. Teachers confine themselves to teaching for examination purposes. Some teachers concentrate more on their coaching institutes and less on school teaching.

Our examinations do not test the knowledge of a student, instead, they test mere memory and power of recall.

Project work should be given to students. Will these suggestions be accepted?

**Kanchan Magar, age 16,**
**CHM College, Ulhasnagar.**

## Special Viewpoint

### A battered state

The super cyclone has left Orissa battered. Vital industries, entire stretches of trees, cultivated land and cattle are in shambles. Thanks to the armed forces and the NGOs, relief has reached a section of the affected people.

People are still dying for want of proper sanitation. Looting of trucks and large scale disruption of relief work demoralised people.

Several weeks after the cyclone had abated, relief had not reached the remote villages. Bags of relief material awaited distribution at the Kalinga stadium.

I hope that things change for this distressed state and real relief reaches the people in the form of economic development.

**Amrita Sabat, age 14, Bhubaneshwar.**

*Dear Amrita, pl. send in your school's name.*

# THE CORNER LAMP

"Mr. Arkins, why don't you switch on the lamp in your compound?" said Mr. Shaw, as he passed by Mr. Arkins's house. "It is a zero watt bulb. How much electricity will it consume?"

Mr. Arkins was a stingy old man. His wife was a nice old woman who was loved and respected by everyone in the neighbourhood. Due to her husband's rude behaviour, she had to cut a sorry figure outside. There was a ditch in front of Mr. Arkins's house. Everyone who came to that neighbourhood at night would stumble into that ditch and get hurt badly.

Mr. Arkins's son and his family were expected to come to spend the weekend with him. They were coming for the first time. It was Friday night. Mr. Arkins and his wife sat in the living room, waiting for their son.

"I wonder why they aren't here yet?" Mr. Arkins said. "It's quite late."

Just then they heard a loud cry. Mr. Arkins rushed out. He switched on the light near the gate. The bulb wouldn't burn.

Mr. Arkins groped in the dark and helped to lift the man who had fallen in the ditch. The man cried in pain. Mr. Arkins realised that it was his son.

He tried to start the car. But the tyre had gone flat due to disuse. Mr. Arkins had to take a taxi to the hospital.

The next day saw Mr. Arkins replace the old bulb with a new one. The car's tyre too was replaced. Mr. Arkins's neighbours were pleased at this change.

**Shuriti Saralaya, age 13, Mangalore.**

# A BEAST

Camel provides meat, shelter, attire besides standing up as a beast of burden. It can carry man and luggage through the hot, unmanoeuvrable sand dunes. Camels can be found in Arabia, Tibet, some parts of Asia and Africa. Camels have existed for many centuries. A papyrus more than 33 centuries old mentions camels.

* Fossils suggest that the Arabian camel may have evolved in India.

Two species of camels existed in the old world. 1) The one-humped camel, found in Arabia and the other is the Bactrian camel, found in Asia.

Camel milk can be used to produce butter. Camel meat is eaten in certain parts of the world. The hair provides ropes, tents and clothes. The Arabic literature grew in the desert. Nomads riding the camel would often pass on information and stories by word of mouth. These were later written down and thus was born Arabic literature.

Camels can march for days through the desert without drinking water. Its stomach is divided into three compartments. The first two are lined with large cells. They are the camel's water tanks. The camel's hump contains only fat tissues.

The animal taps the reservoirs of fatty nourishment in it for the required energy. The camel is a sturdy animal which can carry cargo over long distances without becoming exhausted.

The Arabian camel is long-limbed with large spreading feet. The Bactrian camel has short legs. It has tougher feet designed to withstand wear and tear.

Camel bones are as sturdy as ivory and much prized. It is used in enormous quantity as ivory.

* The Bactrian camel is found only in Asia.

# OF BURDEN

• Camels are used to plough land in Egypt

The camel exhibits many reptilian qualities. Their body temperatures rise by day and fall by night. It has sweat glands behind the neck. The camel sweats to relieve the heat.

The camel makes a meal of bramble, briar, prickly thorn bush and the scrubby thistles. They fight dreadful battles among themselves. The teeth are so strong that they can dash a man to the ground with their jaws and kill him.

A contest of strength between two bull camels is a grim spectacle. The camel will seize a leg of its rival with its teeth and tug it until the rival is thrown to the ground. It will then pound the animal to death with its knees.

The other bull camels in the herd will join in the fight by letting out ear-rending cries.

Arabian camel rearers will often take great efforts to make a mother camel (who has lost her calf) adopt an orphaned baby camel.

The alpaca, or peruvian sheep, the vicugna of the Cordilleras, the llama of South America are all cousins of the camels.

In Egypt farmers use camels to plough their land just as we use bullocks.

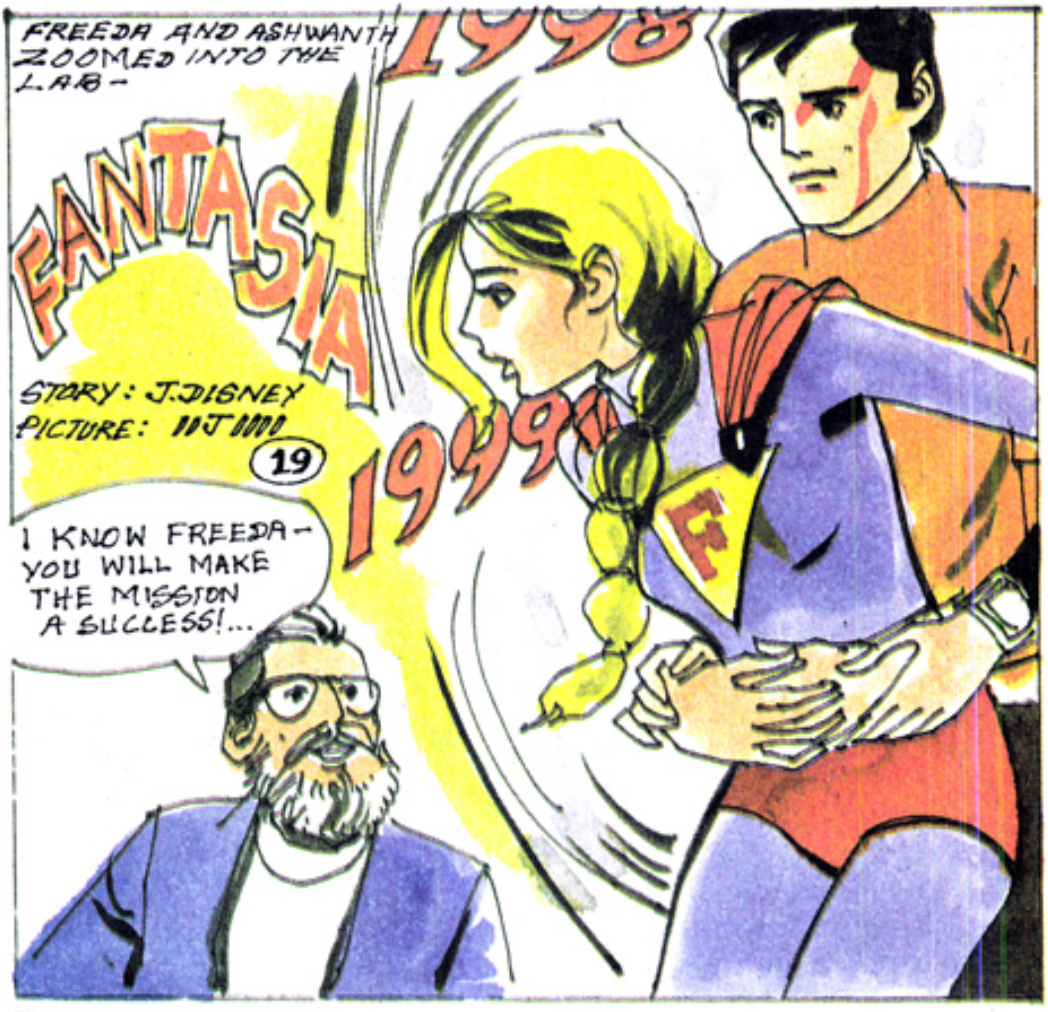
India hosts a fair every year. It is held in Pushkar in Rajasthan. It is specially meant for the camels.

The camel can never be fully tamed. It is a morose animal, wilful and wayward. Native owners of this animal will make their camels travel 80 miles in three to four days. They may carry a cargo of atleast three-quarters of a ton.

Fossil camel forms suggest that the Arabian camel may have arisen in India.

Camels have been put to work even in Australia. It helped to carry fencing wires for Australian farmers. It has carried cargoes of wool to ports there.

• The Arabians call the camel the ship of the desert



FREEDA AND ASHWANTH ZOOMED INTO THE LAB -

1998

FANTASIA

STORY: J. DISNEY
PICTURE: 11J 1111

19

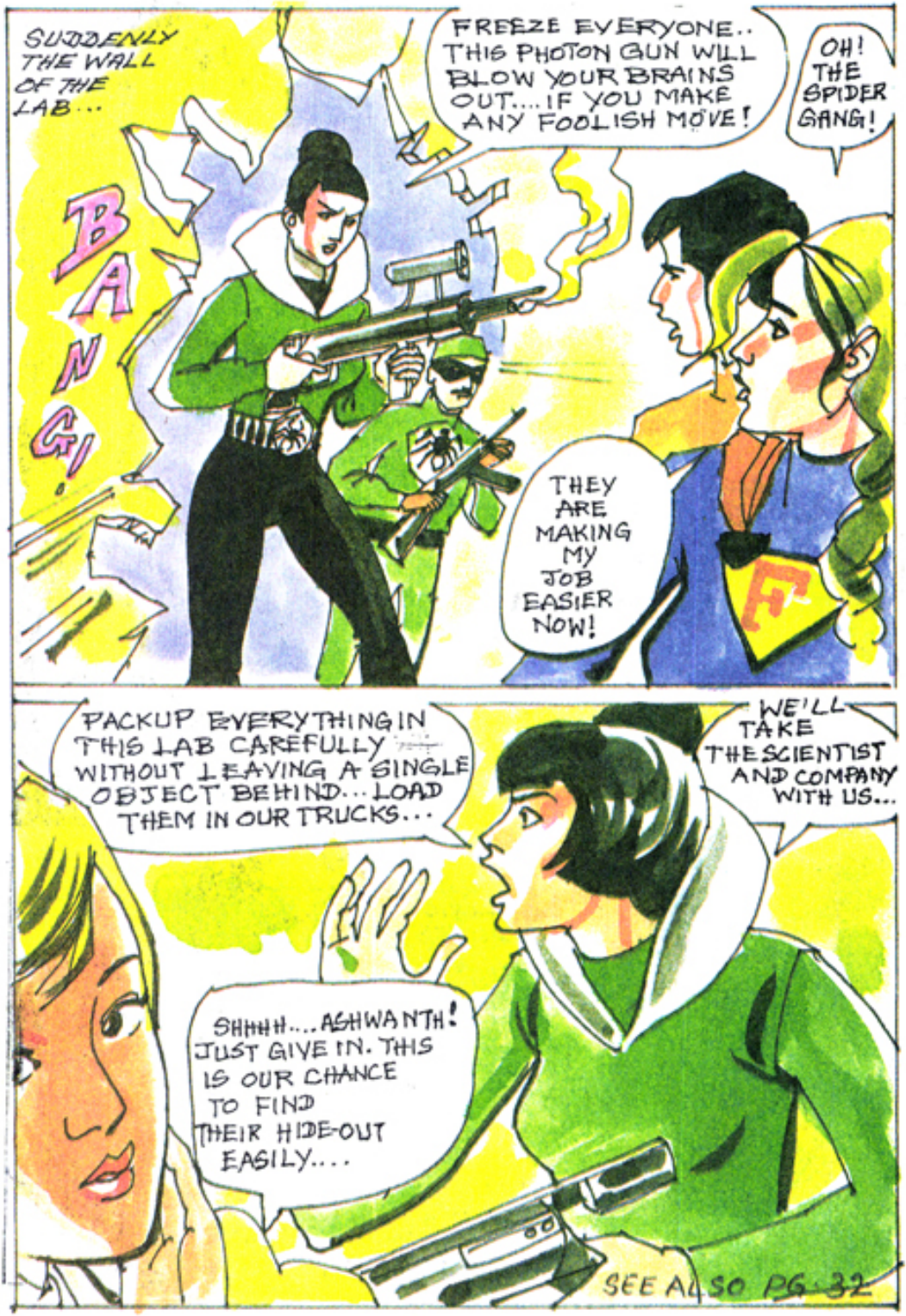
1999

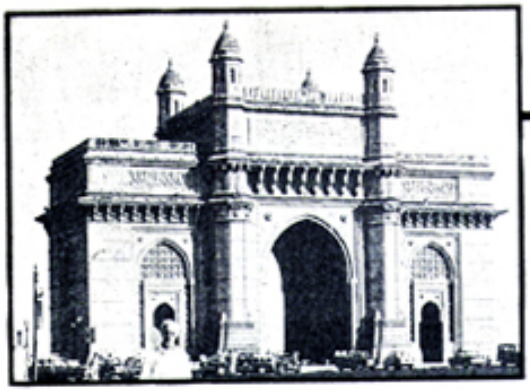
I KNOW FREEDA - YOU WILL MAKE THE MISSION A SUCCESS!...

SIR, WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS FANTASTIC YOUNG LADY?

WELL, WHAT HAPPENED THERE IN THE PAST?

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER.... NOW I HAVE ANOTHER MISSION TO COMPLETE...

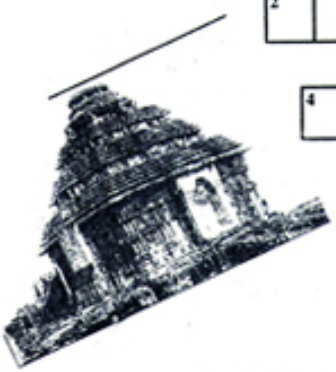

SUDDENLY THE WALL OF THE LAB...
BANG!
FREEZE EVERYONE.. THIS PHOTON GUN WILL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT....IF YOU MAKE ANY FOOLISH MOVE!
OH! THE SPIDER GANG!
THEY ARE MAKING MY JOB EASIER NOW!
PACKUP EVERYTHING IN THIS LAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT LEAVING A SINGLE OBJECT BEHIND...LOAD THEM IN OUR TRUCKS...
WE'LL TAKE THE SCIENTIST AND COMPANY WITH US...
SHHHH....ASHWANTH! JUST GIVE IN. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO FIND THEIR HIDE-OUT EASILY....
SEE ALSO PG. 32

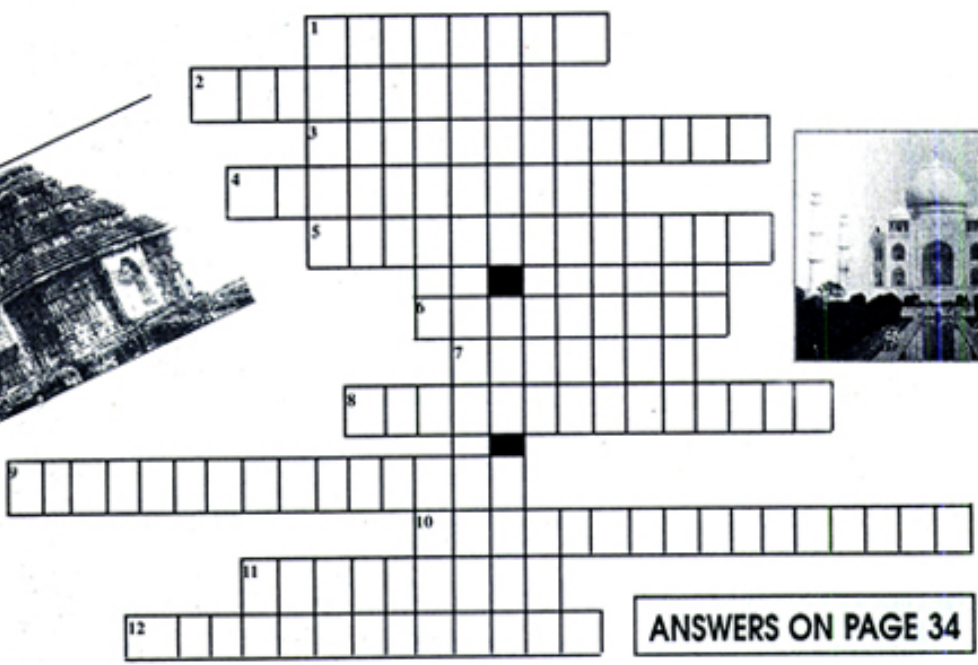


# HISTORY WONDER

*Fill in the words and enjoy the new year!*

1. A tomb built by Shahjahan in Agra.
2. A large tower in Delhi built to commemorate victory.
3. They were built over the dead kings in Egypt.
4. A leaning tower in a city in Europe.
5. A place in S. India where an ocean, a bay and a sea meet.
6. A temple in which the first ray of the sun passes through the door and meets the sun god.
7. The fort built by Shahjahan at Delhi.
8. A place where Queen Victoria was welcomed in Bombay when she came to India from England.
9. The statue built in New York. It depicts freedom.
10. The largest wall built to save China from being destroyed by Mongolia.
11. The most magnificient structure built by Adilshah at Bijapur.
12. The best art of the Pallavas found in Tamil Nadu.





ANSWERS ON PAGE 34

## DO YOU KNOW

1.Which is the first newspaper of India?.

2. Which is the hottest place in the world?

3. What is the scientific name of our national bird?

4.Which is the most populated country?

5. Where did America drop atom bombs in Japan?

6.Which continent is called the dark continent?

7. What is the national animal of Australia?

8. When did Hindi become the national language of India?

K.T. Sreekanth, age 11,
Kendriya Vidhyalaya, Ottapalam.

*Dear Sreekanth, pl. send your house address.*

## MATTER OF STATES

Find out 14 states in this grid.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | R | A | J | A | S | T | H | A | N | K |
| M | K | E | R | A | L | A | M | G | O | G |
| A | K | S | I | K | K | I | M | U | V | U |
| H | A | I | P | E | G | G | S | J | K | J |
| A | R | M | E | G | H | A | L | A | Y | A |
| R | N | M | A | P | E | R | A | L | U | R |
| A | A | E | O | B | R | M | K | G | P | A |
| S | T | A | M | I | L | N | A | D | U | O |
| H | A | S | K | H | G | S | S | S | N | R |
| T | K | S | U | A | U | P | H | P | J | I |
| R | A | A | M | R | J | I | M | I | A | S |
| A | Q | M | M | I | A | D | I | D | B | S |
| A | N | T | A | Q | R | E | R | E | L | A |
| E | G | U | J | A | R | A | T | R | A | F |

K.C. Radhika, Std. VIII,
Jaycees EMS, Karkala, Karnataka.

## MISSING LINK

Find the next number in the following series.

0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21.....

S. Uthra, Std. IX,
St. Joseph's Convent Girls HS,
Coonoor.

## WHO ARE THEY?

Find their real names.

1. Punjab Kesari
2. Sunny
3. Man of Blood and Iron
4. Lokmanya
5. Little Corporal
6. Mark Twain
7. Lion of Punjab
8. Man of peace
9. Fuehrer

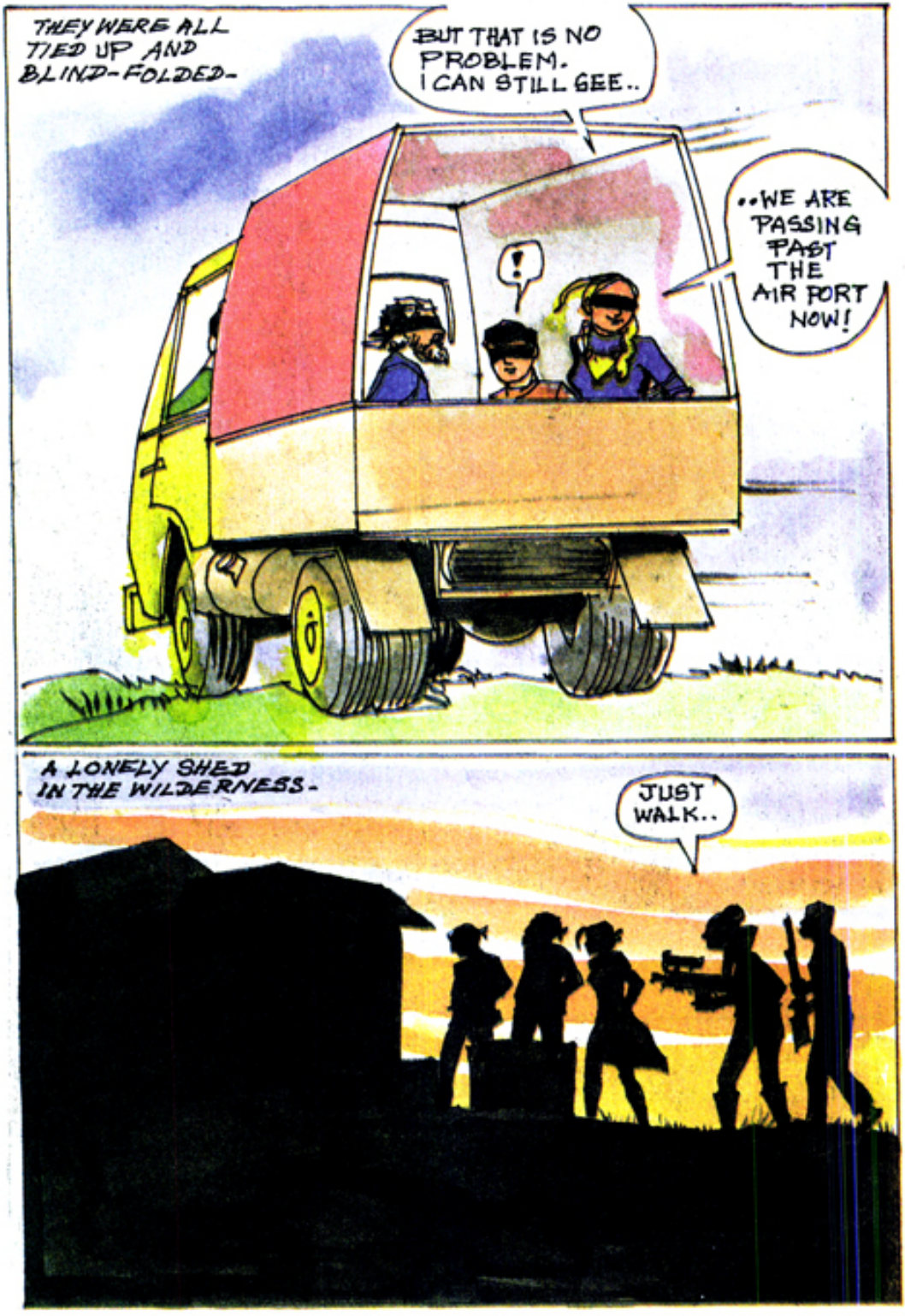
Manju Mohandas,
Std. VIII B,
St. Joseph Mary's School,
24, Parganas (S)

## BOOKWORM

Match the authors with their works.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Giovanni Boccaccio | a) Utopia |
| 2. Miguel de Cervantes | b) Great Expectations |
| 3. Charles Dickens | c) Tales from Shakespeare |
| 4. Charles Lamb | d) Decameron |
| 5. Milton | e) Don Quixote |
| 6. Thomas More | f) Paradise Lost |

Ajith G. Pal, age 15,
St. Mary's EHS, Udupi.


THEY WERE ALL TIED UP AND BLIND-FOLDED-
BUT THAT IS NO PROBLEM. I CAN STILL SEE..
..WE ARE PASSING PAST THE AIR PORT NOW!
!
A LONELY SHED IN THE WILDERNESS-
JUST WALK..

WE ARE GOING DOWN IN AN ELEVATOR I GUESS

YES YOU ARE RIGHT.... WE ARE GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER DOWN BELOW THE SURFACE.

MOMENTS LATER-

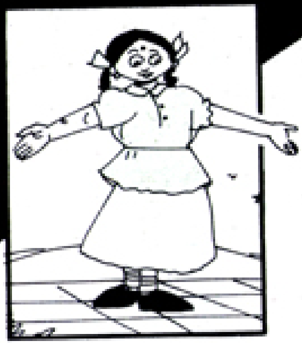
THEM

WAIT TILL THE PROFESSOR REASSEMBLES THE EQUIPMENTS AND SETS THEM UP IN *OUR* LAB. THEN TERMINATE ALL THE THREE - RIGHT?

YES EVLIN!

TO CONTINUE

# ANSWER PAGE



1 + 1 = 2
2 + 1 = 3
3 + 2 = 5
5 + 3 = 8
8 + 5 = 13
13 + 8 = 21
13 + 21 = 34

• Gavaskar

• Hitler

## HISTORY WONDER

1. TAJMAHAL
2. QUTUBMINAR
3. GREATPYRAMIDS
4. TOWEROFPISA
5. KANNIYAKUMARI
6. SUNTEMPLE
7. REDFORT
8. GATEWAYOFINDIA
9. STATUEOFLIBERTY
10. GREATWALLOFCHINA
11. GOLGUMBAZ
12. MAHABALIPURAM

## STATES OF INDIA

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | R | A | J | A | S | T | H | A | N | K |
| M | K | E | R | A | L | A | M | G | O | G |
| A | K | S | I | K | K | I | M | U | V | U |
| H | A | I | P | E | G | G | S | J | K | J |
| A | R | M | E | G | H | A | L | A | Y | A |
| R | N | M | A | P | E | R | A | L | U | R |
| A | A | E | O | B | R | M | K | G | P | A |
| S | T | A | M | I | L | N | A | D | U | O |
| H | A | S | K | H | G | S | S | S | N | R |
| T | K | S | U | A | U | P | H | P | J | I |
| R | A | A | M | R | J | I | M | I | A | S |
| A | Q | M | M | I | A | D | I | D | B | S |
| A | N | T | A | Q | R | E | R | E | L | A |
| E | G | U | J | A | R | A | T | R | A | F |

Gangadhar Tilak, 5. Napoleon, 6. Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 8. Lal Bahadur Shastri, 9. Adolf Hitler.

## DO YOU KNOW?

1. Bengal Gazette, 2. Libiya , 3. Paro cristats (peacock), 4. China, 5. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 6. Africa, 7. Kangaroo, 8. 26 January, 1965.

## MISSING LINK

The next number is 34.

0 + 1 = 1

## WHO ARE THEY?

1 and 7. Lala Lajpat Rai, 2. Sunil Gavaskar, 3. Bismark, 4. Bal

## BOOKWORM

1 - d, 2 - e, 3 - b, 4 - c, 5 - f, 6 - a

# BLACK IS Beautiful

To some black is beautiful! To others black is bizarre, bleak and gloomy. Black is merely a contrast to white not just in its colour and darkness. It is also in the meanings of the hundreds of words associated with it.

A drunkard beats his wife 'black and blue' in a state of intoxication. 'Black tan' is an alcoholic drink. To put something in 'black and white' is to put it in writing or print in explicit and unmistakable terms. 'Black art' and 'Black magic' are performed for evil purposes in league with the Devil himself!

An applicant may be denied entry into an organisation by a negative vote called the 'black ball'. The unfamiliar name of the familiar cockroach is the 'black beetle'. A 'black belt' holder is an expert in the art of self-defence like Judo or Karate.

Medieval physiology believed that melancholia was caused by the 'black bile' - one of the four humorals of the human body. A school or an educational institution which has a very bad reputation for violence by its students is nothing but a 'blackboard jungle'! In Physics, the theoretically perfect absorber and radiator of heat energy is known as a 'black body'! That was why umbrellas were made in black colour so as to absorb the sunrays before they could reach us.

The record of the people who are liable to be punished is the 'black book. 'Black box' is a very useful device invented for recording automatically all the details of a journey. In mines the combustible gases

* Black cloth absorbs sunrays before they reach us.

* Black art and black magic are performed for evil purposes

explode and burn leaving behind 'black damp' - a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen. The epidemic of plague that swept through Europe and most of Asia in the fourteenth century was called 'Black death'.

Coal is 'black diamond' and crude oil is 'black gold'. A 'black guard' is a dirty, rotten scoundrel! In early 20th century a society called the 'Black Hand' was organised, mainly by the Sicilians active in the USA, to perform organised crimes, acts of terrorism and black mailing.

A 'black hat' is a recent immigrant to Australia. 'Black hole' is a region in the space caused by a star collapsing under its own gravitational force - to such an extent that it does not allow even light rays to leave the region. Morbid and absurd humour is called 'black humour'. Now 'black comedy' has become an integral part of the T.V. shows. Black Jack is a small leather covered bludgeon used as a weapon. Graphite is the 'black lead'.

Recent discovery states that more skin cancers are caused by the 'black light' than by the 'white light'! The invisible ultra-violet rays and the infra-red rays constitute the 'black light' as they cannot be seen by us. They can affect our skin even if we are sitting under an umbrella - as they get scattered by the surfaces around us!

'Black list' consists of the names of persons or organisations that are to be boycotted. 'Black Maria' is the very attractive name given to the police van used for transporting the offenders of the law! A 'Black Panther' is a member of a militant organisation of the blacks in the USA. The outfit seeks to establish black supremacy by force. Any person who is a disgrace to his family is a 'black sheep'.

A beautiful dark skinned woman is called a 'black velvet'. The same name stands for a drink consisting of stout and champagne. An extremely venomous spider is called the 'black widow'. A 'black vomit' has blood in it and is a danger signal that needs immediate medical attention. 'Black-hearted persons' perform 'black deeds' and give us the 'black look'.

Don't you agree with me when I say that black may be aptly renamed as Bleak?

**Visalakshi Ramani,**
**Coimbatore.**

CROW'S advice
Story : K. Vidhya Nandhini, Std. V, TVS Lakshmi MHSS, Madurai.
In a forest a peacock and a nightingale were quarrelling.
I am better than you because I am beautiful.
I am better because I have a sweet voice.
A crow who heard them came to help.
Tell us who's more beautiful?
The crow thought over the problem and said...
My voice is not good and I am ugly. People still feed me. I am not worried about beauty.
That's not an answer at all!
Those who have a good heart and are contented are the really beautiful people in the world!
The crow is right.

* Genes are responsible for similarities between siblings

# Why don't people look ALIKE?

Have you ever noticed that no two human beings, with the exception of twins, are alike? Environment and economic influences amount for many of the differences. Some characteristics are independent of environment - like hair colour, shape of the nose and so on.

The study of the laws of inheritance is called genetics.

Man is built from a single fertilised ovum. This ovum divides and re-divides again and again. Generally, round or oval, the embryo contains everything that is necessary for life. It has a definite structure of its own. It has minute rod-like bodies called chromosomes. Human beings have 46 chromosomes. They are the carriers of various characteristics or genes of the parents.

When the embryo (fertilised ovum) divides into two, the chromosomes of the nucleus divide throughout their length and separate. Thus every new cell will contain the same number of chromosomes. They will also be of the same kind.

Experiments have been conducted with plants and animals to learn about inheritance. In 1865, Johann Gregor Mendel was able to give the results of his famous experiments on the cross-breeding of peas.

* Six fingers and six toes are also due to heridity

A giant variety was crossed with a dwarf variety. The tall varieties were then left to self-fertilise. The ratio of the tall to dwarf variety was 3:1, as a result.

It has now been established that

man inherits in accordance with Mendel's law. Characteristics like colour blindness, albinism, height factors and the stunted condition of the limbs (where fingers and toes have two joints instead of three), are due to genes.

Genes also play a role in disease inheritance. No microbic disease is ever inherited. Environment and not genes, cause microbic diseases. A special talent, such as musical talent may be inherited. Women have 23 equal pairs of chromosomes. Men have 22 equal pairs and one unequal pair. This unequal pair is referred to as the sex-chromosome or the X and Y chromosome.

When the sperm cells are formed, two kinds of sperm are manufactured. One contains the X chromosome and the other Y. When the Y chromosome unites with an ovum, a male child is born. This male child will also carry X and Y as its sex chromosomes. Thus, the sex of the child is determined during fertilisation.

* Identical twins share the same genetic bond.

* A study of chromosomes may reveal causes of disease like deafness.

Colour blindness - the inability to distinguish between red and green and haemophilia - the condition in which blood will not clot properly, are both genetic disorders.

Genetics plays a major role in the fields of medicine and agriculture today. Plant and animal breeding is now done in a more systematic manner. The path breaking work of Charles Darwin — 'The Origin of Species', published in 1859, established that man had evolved from apes. Today, genes are used in cloning.

Efforts are on to completely decode the chromosomes. Chromosomes are complex chemical structures. A study of these structures will help scientists to understand heriditary diseases.

The study will reveal to scientists the cause of diseases like schizophrenia and deafness. Chromosome no. 22 regulates our immune system. The decoding of the chemical substance of the chromosomes will help to deal better with diseases.

2000
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# ULAM CALENDAR

### APRIL

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| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

### JUNE

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### OCTOBER

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| 30 | 31 | | | | |

### NOVEMBER

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### DECEMBER

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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

# HELLO, DOCTOR!

*** Mukul. P. Joshi, Mumbai.**

*? What causes measles? What is the remedy? How can we prevent it?*

! Measles is caused by the paramyxo virus. It is a contagious disease affecting children in the age group of 5 to 10 years. The main symptom is the appearance of rashes on the face and the trunk of the body accompanied by high fever. Hence the affected child should be isolated.

No specific treatment is available for measles. We manage it symptomatically. Antipyretics are given to control the fever; antibiotics are used to avoid bacterial complications. Measles vaccine is available to prevent it. It should be administered to the child between the age of nine and 15 months.

*** Joshwin, Irenipuram.**

*? Why are some people left-handed?*

! Our brain consists of cerebrum, thalamus, hypothalamus, cerebellum, pons and medulla oblongata. Cerebrum occupies two-thirds portion of the brain. It is hemispherical. It is divided into two lobes - right and left. The nerves arising from the left brain cross over at the level of the neck and go to the right side of the body whereas the nerves from the right brain go to the left side. Hence the left brain controls the right side of the body and the right brain controls the left side. Usually the left brain is predominant over the right brain. Such persons are right-handed. Most of the people

in the world fall under this category. But in some, the right brain is predominant. Such people are left-handed.

*** MA. Majid, Hyderabad.**

*? How is brain fever caused?*

! Encephalitis is the medical term for brain fever. It is mainly

caused by Japanese B virus. They live in the blood of pigs and are carried by 'culux vishnuii' mosquitoes. When this mosquito bites a healthy person, the viruses are passed on to his brain through the blood stream and he gets the disease. Sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, drowsiness, convulsions and coma are the symptoms of brain fever.

*** D. Johnson, Chennai.**

*? Why does polio affect only children and not adults?*

! Adults have sufficient immunity to resist the disease but children do not have the strength to face it. This is the reason why polio affects only children. However, it will not affect those children who have already been given the oral polio vaccine properly. More- over, every child is exposed to the polio virus but he develops immunity without showing any signs of the disease. That is why only a small percentage of children infected with polio are paralysed.

*** A. Shanthi, Namakkal.**

*? Why is cutting of nails and hairs painless?*

! Nails are special structures of the body. They are formed from the outer layer of the skin. They are made up of a hard material called keratin. Keratin is a kind of dead protein. Similarly, hair is a filamentous structure made of keratin. Both nails and hairs have no nerves to feel pain. Since they have no nerves and are composed of dead protein, we do not feel pain while we scrape our nails and dress our hair in a routine way.

**Dr. G. Ganesan, Rajapalayam**

BUDDING CHEF

# CHOCOLATE SAUCE

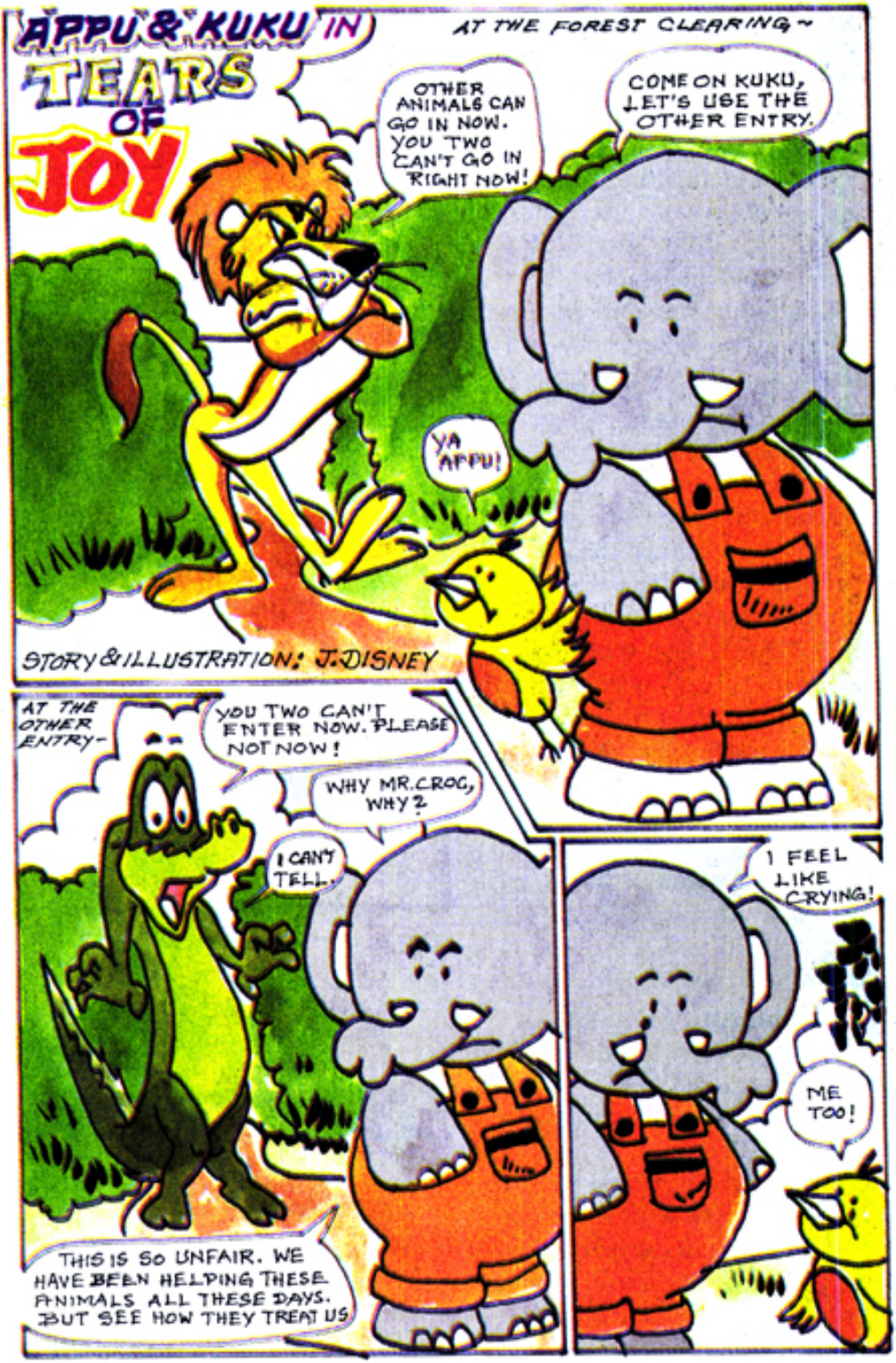
***You need :***

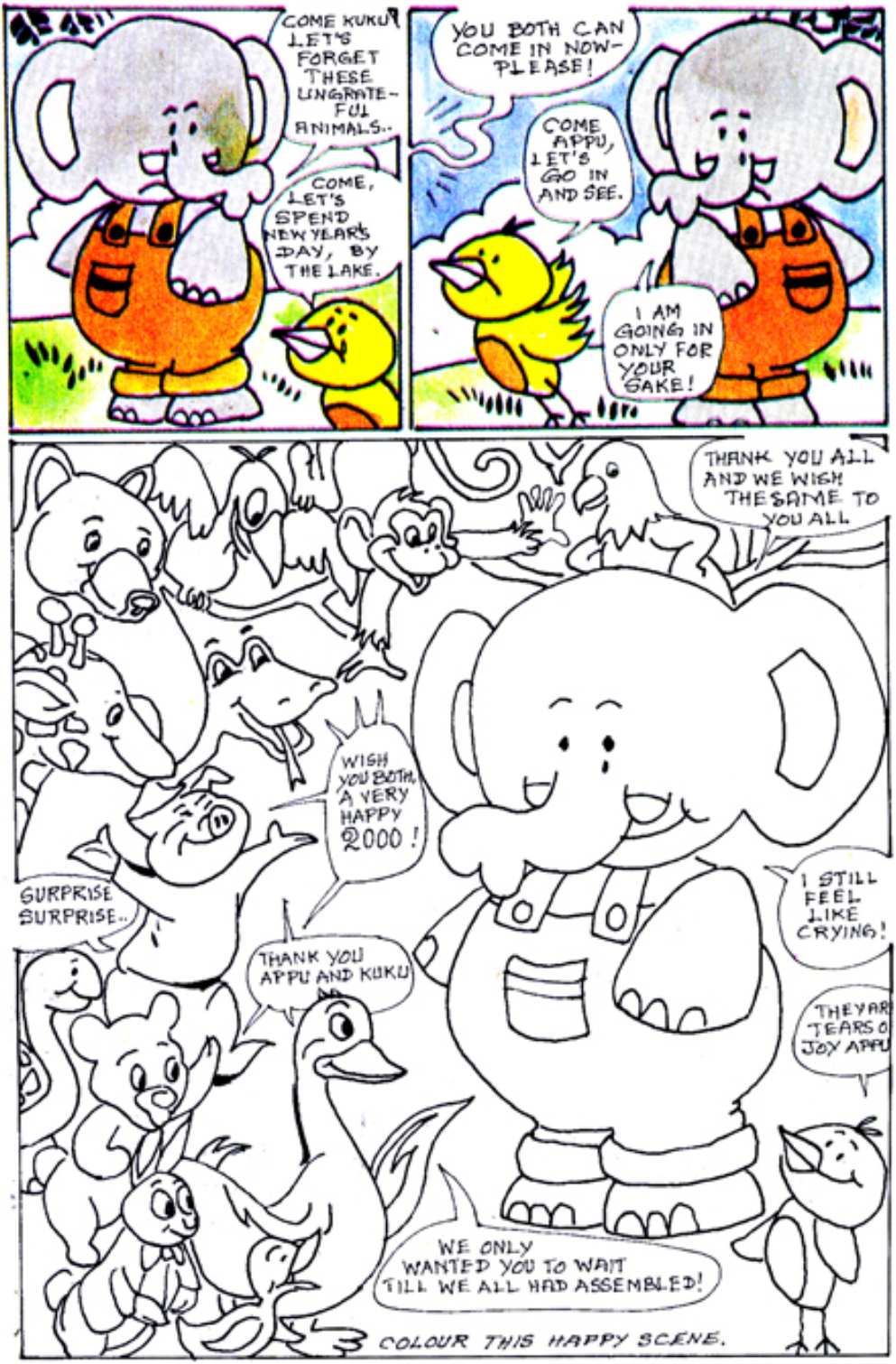
Butter - 100 gms.
Cocoa powder - 1 tsp
Sugar - 1½ cup

***Method :***

Melt the butter in a pan, add sugar and heat. Add a little water (2 tbsp.), if needed to melt sugar. Finally, add cocoa. Once it comes to a boil, put it on low flame for about five minutes or till it becomes thick. Serve the sauce with sponge cakes or with cookies.

**Deepika Khanwadia, Std. VIII E, AECS Tarapur - 1, Thane.**


APPU & KUKU IN
TEARS OF JOY
AT THE FOREST CLEARING~
OTHER ANIMALS CAN GO IN NOW. YOU TWO CAN'T GO IN RIGHT NOW!
COME ON KUKU, LET'S USE THE OTHER ENTRY.
YA APPU!
STORY & ILLUSTRATION: J. DISNEY
AT THE OTHER ENTRY~
YOU TWO CAN'T ENTER NOW. PLEASE NOT NOW!
WHY MR. CROC, WHY?
I CAN'T TELL.
THIS IS SO UNFAIR. WE HAVE BEEN HELPING THESE ANIMALS ALL THESE DAYS. BUT SEE HOW THEY TREAT US
I FEEL LIKE CRYING!
ME TOO!


COME KUKU! LET'S FORGET THESE UNGRATEFUL ANIMALS..
COME, LET'S SPEND NEW YEAR'S DAY, BY THE LAKE.
YOU BOTH CAN COME IN NOW-PLEASE!
COME APPU, LET'S GO IN AND SEE.
I AM GOING IN ONLY FOR YOUR SAKE!
THANK YOU ALL AND WE WISH THE SAME TO YOU ALL
WISH YOU BOTH A VERY HAPPY 2000!
SURPRISE SURPRISE..
THANK YOU APPU AND KUKU
I STILL FEEL LIKE CRYING!
THEY AR TEARS O JOY APPU
WE ONLY WANTED YOU TO WAIT TILL WE ALL HAD ASSEMBLED!
COLOUR THIS HAPPY SCENE.

## MILLENNIUM CONTEST RESULTS

*Thank you for your enthusiastic participation. However, most of you had voted for the computer. The computer is no doubt the best thing to have happened to mankind. It helps a great deal in information explosion and through the internet we have access to almost anything. E-mail and computer shopping have made life easy.*

*Yet, television is still the most sought after medium by people the world over. It not only educates and entertains but also brings the whole world to our drawing room with the help of artificial satellites. News, as it is happening is received in our drawing room from all over the world. We are able to watch any sport event or major political development as and when they are taking place. Satellites have brought people closer. The satellites keep farmers well-informed on the weather patterns. They help the computer crazy world to talk to one another, even if one is in Antartica and the other in Arabia.*

*It is for these reasons that we chose the essay on satellites for the I prize. The second and third prizes went to essays on computers.*

*A consolation prize was added on. The prize went to an essay on television.*

***Winners : Consolation prize :** G. Hema, Std. VII C, DTEA SSS, N. Delhi.*

***III Prize :** P.R. Arun, Std. X, Christ Nagar School, Trivandrum.*

***II Prize :** Zeeshan M. Fatmi, Std. VIII, St. Xavier's HS, Adipur.*

***I Prize :** S. Shankar Prasad, Std. IX B, KV, Kudremukh.*

***Prize Money : I prize - Rs. 200/; II prize - Rs. 150/-; III prize - Rs. 100/- and consolation prize - Rs. 75/-***

*We are publishing the consolation prize-winning essay in this issue. In the subsequent issues we will be publishing the other prize-winning entries.*

# I Vote for TV

The greatest scientific invention of the twentieth century is the television. It has also changed the lifestyle of the people. It has intruded on the privacy of the people world over.

When television first came into being, it was a huge, un-gainly box, made of wood. John Logie Baird's invention of 1926 had few takers.

Centuries ago men on horses carried messages to various parts. Today by a mere click of a switch we can be part of the happenings around the world. There are a variety of news channels

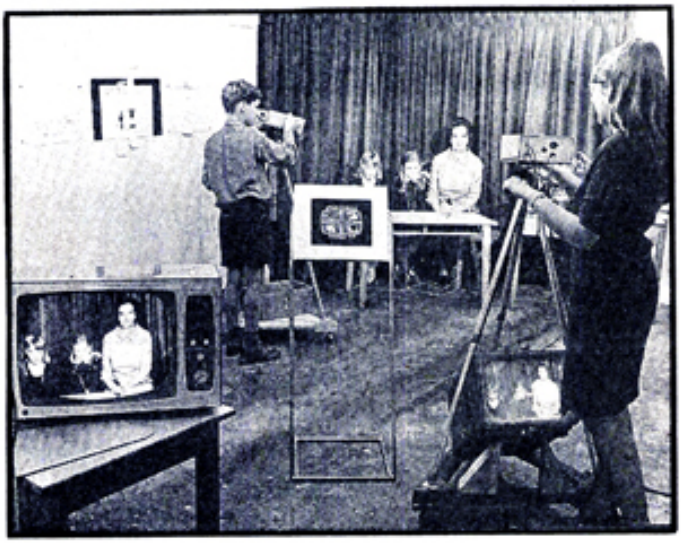
that update us on the news around the world. Before TV, sport lovers had to travel half-way around the globe to watch games. Today we can sit at home and watch games on the TV. Even village children are aware of the rules of various international games. Children of the city spend most of their waking hours in front of the TV watching cartoon strips, and commercial programmes. Advertisers are bombarding viewers with a variety of messages. Our grandparents tune into the age-old epic stories shown in true-to-life settings. It is easy to learn history and biology today via TV.

There are channels wholly devoted to learning the life of wild animals. Our ancestors had no idea of the animals that lived in areas beyond their country.

Earlier, the teacher had to rebuild incidents from history so that he could keep the child's attention. Today, however, children can watch educational programmes. They can learn and retain much more clearly the events from history. Not only this, they can also learn science at the press of a button. Farmers can learn of various cropping patterns and methods used world over. Housewives do not sit and twiddle their thumbs in the afternoons anymore. They learn new crafts and skills by watching programmes on the TV.

The TV brings us face to face with the fury of nature in remote parts of the world. It instils in us a feeling of sympathy and brotherhood with the victims of the vagaries of nature. We can learn about the tradition and lifestyle of people in different parts of the world. The TV has also created couch potatoes who believe that watching TV is the only way to pass time. For them,TV today has been named the 'idiot box'.

* Baird's invention is a useful tool today.

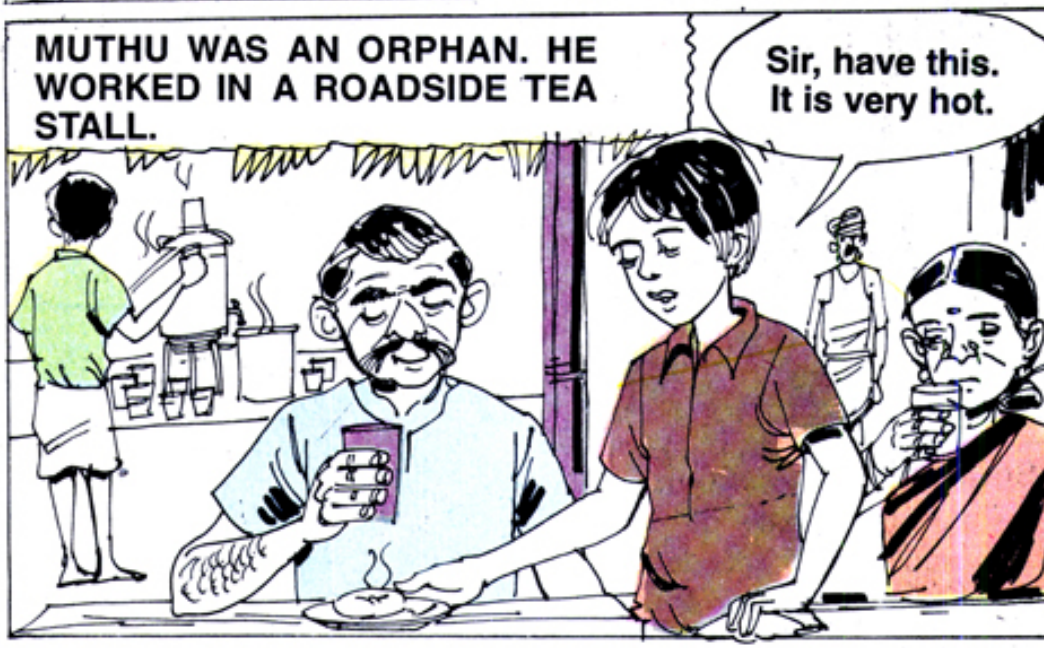


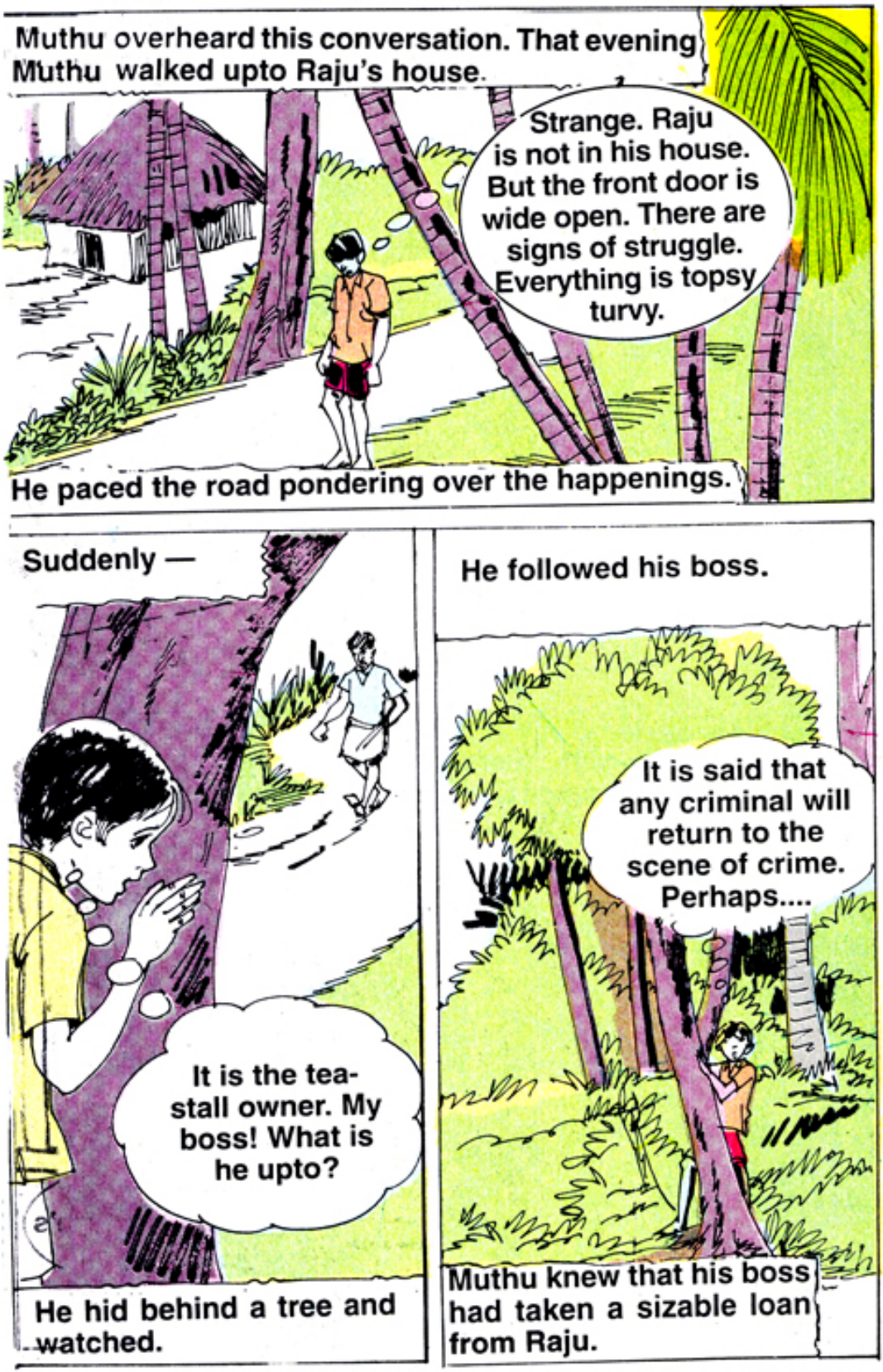
One need not be educated to operate a TV set. Even villagers can boast of TV sets. The TV will strengthen the bond between people in different parts of the globe in the coming century. In a village, everyone participates in the joys and sorrows of the people of the village. We, who live in cities will also participate in the events that take place around the globe. Thus, the world will become a village. The TV is truly a friend of man.

**G. Hema, age 12,**
**DTEA SSS, N. Delhi.**

# BRAVE MUTHU

*Story :*
P.S. RAGOTHAM, age 12,
BHEL MS, Trichy
*Illustration :*
LALITHA




Muthu overheard this conversation. That evening Muthu walked upto Raju's house.
Strange. Raju is not in his house. But the front door is wide open. There are signs of struggle. Everything is topsy turvy.
He paced the road pondering over the happenings.
Suddenly —
It is the tea-stall owner. My boss! What is he upto?
He hid behind a tree and watched.
He followed his boss.
It is said that any criminal will return to the scene of crime. Perhaps....
Muthu knew that his boss had taken a sizable loan from Raju.

Muthu continued to walk.
Blood stains! May be Raju is in danger. I know he charges very heavy interest!
Perhaps he pestered my boss to repay the loan with interest or face the consequences!
Further investigation led Muthu to an abandoned hut.
Raju is unconscious. He needs immediate medical help.
Muthu ran back to the village and informed the village elders.
The tea-stall owner was taken into custody.
Crime never pays.
Anger too....
Muthu's bravery was the talk of the town.

# Why do we celebrate the New Year?

Welcoming the New Year is one of the oldest and gayest customs the world over. No other festival has been observed on so many different dates or in so many different ways.

The ancient Greeks began their new year with the new moon after June 21. Before the time of Julius Ceasar, the Roman New Year started on March 1. In most European countries during the middle ages, the new year began on March 25.

What about today? In most Christian countries the new year begins on January 1. Other countries and religions observe New Year's day on different dates, according to their calendar.

The Chinese do celebrate New Year's day on January 1. But the other New Year's day is based on the Chinese lunar calendar. This may occur any time between January 21 and February 19.

Indonesia also celebrates New Year on two days. One on January 1 and the other is the Islamic New Year, a date that varies from year to year. The Russian orthodox church observes the New Year according to the Julian Calendar, which places the day on January 14.

The Jewish New Year 'Rosh Hashanah' is celebrated about the time of the autumnal equinox

at the end of September or the beginning of October.

In Vietnam the New Year usually begins in the month of February.

In Iran the New Year is celebrated on March 21.

The people in Morocco observe the beginning of the year on the tenth day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic year. The Koreans celebrate their New Year during the first three days in January.

It is believed that April Fool's Day started with friends. When the calendar was reformed, the first nation to adopt the reformed calendar was France. Charles IX ordered in 1564, that the year should begin with the first of January. Until then, New Year visits and exchange of New Year gifts were associated with April 1.

Now after Charles issued his decree, all this became associated with January 1. Many people objected to the change and refused to go along with it. Other people made fun of them for this. They sent mock gifts, pretended to visit them and invited them to mock New Year's celebration on April 1. In other words, people who still felt April 1 was the beginning of New Year were called April fools.

The Tamil New Year day usually falls on April 14 and the Malayalees celebrate Onam at the beginning of their new year.

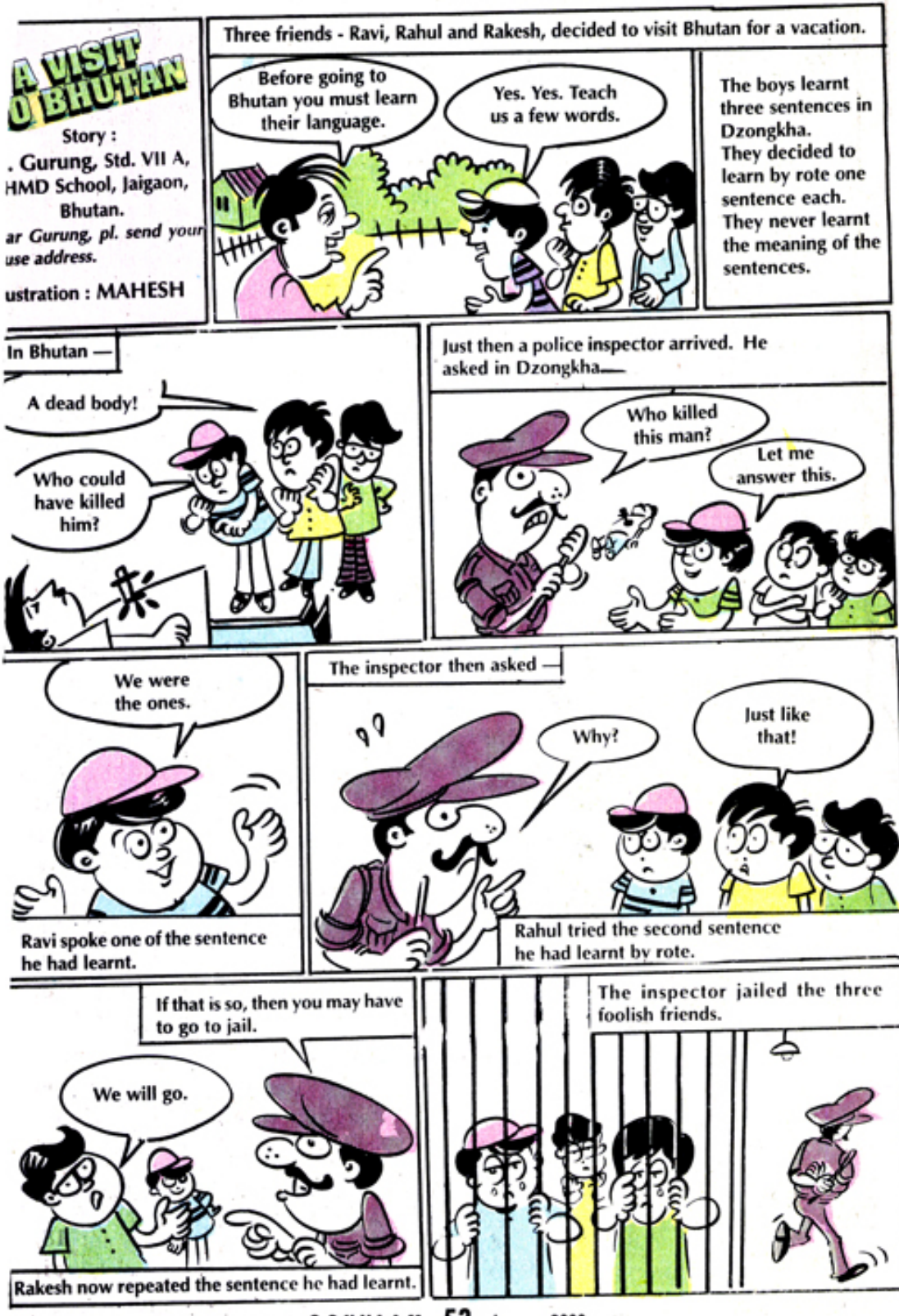
The ancient Germans established a New Year festivalconnected to the changing seasons. The German winter began about the middle of November. This was the time when they gathered the harvest. Everybody came together at this time for the happy occasion. It mean. that they had a period of rest after heavy work. They made merry and had a great holiday.

When the Romans conquered Europe they changed this to the first of January. For them, the coming of the New Year was a symbol of starting a new life with new hopes for the future. This custom and this meaning has lasted to this day. We greet the New Year happily, hoping it will bring us a good, new life!

**J. Gayathri, age 18**
**Chennai**

# A VISIT TO BHUTAN

Story :
. Gurung, Std. VII A,
HMD School, Jaigaon,
Bhutan.
*ar Gurung, pl. send your use address.*
ustration : MAHESH



**This is the 3rd prize winning entry in the horror story contest.**

# IN THE NEW HOUSE

We had just shifted to our new house. Owl-hoots and fox-howls were a regular feature here. It was eerie but in the world of satellites and computers, I knew there was no room for such superstitions.

Mr. Nayak and his family dropped in in the afternoon to chat. Mr. Nayak said that the earlier two tenents had vacated the house under strange circumstances. The first tenent had an ugly looking daughter who was the butt of all jokes in the town.

The tenent vacated in a rush when he could no longer stand the constant reference to his daughter's ugliness.

Two days later the second tenent had entered the house. But he too vacated in a hurry, after a few days. He said that he had been pushed into the well in the backyard, by some shadowy figureand had escaped withminor injuries only because he was a good swimmer. Following this the house owner had sold the house to us at a fairly cheap price and had left the country for good!

Our house had eight rooms - more than sufficient for us. It was a magnificent house with a large backyard and even a chimney in the kitchen.

Because of the stories going around the house had been vacant for most of the 20 years of its existence. As a result, a dozen bats had made the tiled verandah roof their home.

My father and brother cleaned the veran-dah roof for most part of Sunday. I busied myself in the evening, with weeding the garden.

Father said that he planned to take us to a reception party in the evening.

I demurred. "I have called my friends Shalini and Deepa home, father."

He gave me a stern look but said, "Alright, you may stay back. Don't venture out into the night."

After my parents and brother had left I settled down to read a book. Soon Deepa and Shalini arrived, one after the other.

. It was a full moon night. Suddenly the lights went off!

"I hope this candle lasts till the lights come on" I said. It was the only candle at home.

"Let's play carrom," suggested Deepa. We fell in with the idea because that was the first sensible idea that Deepa had come up with!

We were engrossed in the game when Deepa said, "I heard somebody knock on the door."

We waited for another knock. It did come. I sprang up saying that it must be mom. Shalini wondered if aunty had forgotten something.

I opened the door. There was no one there. Not even a ghost! Phew!

When I returned to where the girls sat, I could see a shadow outside the glass window, which was of course closed. Shalini offered to take a look. Just as she opened the door, the shadow rushed into the room. Deepa shrieked with fear while Shalini ran muttering 'slokas'. Our visitor sat next to me on the carrom board and began pushing the coins.

Our guest had red eyes and silvery white long canine teeth. It had long sharp nails. We were trembling.

Suddenly our guest whirred past us and tore down my brother's mask that hung on the wall. I was almost in tears.

Soon we heard utensils crashing on the floor. And the lights came on.

We rushed into the kitchen. There was no sign of the guest! My parents returned a little later. Neither my friends nor I told them about the visitor. We knew they wouldn't believe us.

A fortnight later, on the new moon night, papa was stretched on the sofa, reading a magazine. Mom busied herself with a novel. About fifteen minutes later the lights went off.

I saw a translucent shadow on the window adjacent to the door of the hall.

"Mama, there's someone at the door" I said.

Mom asked me to open the door. I trembled but did as she said. There no one at the door!

Suddenly I had an idea. I ran to my room and picked up my skipping rope and my blanket. I would see to the end of this ghost.

The shadow was still where I had last seen it. Just as I opened the door, the shadow flew past me. I threw the blanket over it and held fast. My parents who heard the commotion rushed to the hall.

The lights came on. I hit the strug-

CREATIVE CORNER

# A Birthday GIFT

**You need :**

Crayons, Needle, Thread, A piece of ribbon, Fevicol, Scissors, 2 paper plates.

**Method :**

Cut a paper plate into half. Thread a needle. Sew up the half plate with the full plate to form a pouch. Draw a favourite design on the half plate and colour.

Fold the ribbon into a bow and paste on the top of the plate.

Gift it to your friend on her birthday!

**S. Radhika, age 10,**
**AFGJI School,**
**New Delhi.**

gling creature under the blanket with the wooden handle of my skipping rope. After a couple of knocks the creature stopped moving.

My father removed the blanket. Beneath it lay a bat! It was a large bat with a huge wing-spread.

"Why did it go to the kitchen?" I asked later.

"There may be mice on the kitchen loft," father said.

I was praised for my courage.

Now you may raise a query. How can a 'human-sized' bat exist? Have I ever mentioned the size of the ghost I was dealing with, anywhere in the story?

**R. Aishwarya, Std. VIII B,**
**Modern SSS, Chennai.**

# KRISHNA AND THE HUNTER

After the battle of Kurukshetra Krishna returned to Dwaraka. He was upset by what he found there. The Yadavas were up in arms. A clan that was known for its peace was now bitterly fighting.

The ghastly sight pained Lord Krishna. To ease his tension, he went for a walk in the nearby woods. Lord Krishna walked restlessly among the trees.

As he walked along, a bush with pink flowers caught his attention. He decided to rest under a tree beside the bush. Soon, he fell asleep.

It would be dusk in a few minutes. A hush fell over the forest. A hunter was returning home. He had been particularly unlucky that day. He hadn't made a single kill.

In the fading light he saw something under a flowery bush. To him it appeared like a deer. He was delighted. He removed a poison-tipped arrow from the quiver and aimed it at the deer. The arrow pier- ced Krishna's right foot.

The hunter walked leisurely upto his kill. To his horror, he saw that he had in- jured Lord Krishna. "I shall end my life at your feet," he sobbed and removed his knife.

"Stop," said Krishna. "We must all die one day. Why then blame yourself for an act you did unknowingly?" He could speak no more. His vision dimmed and his faltering hands sought the support of the hunter. Suddenly, his hands dropped and his head fell forward. The Lord was dead.

**S. Shankar, age 13, PSSSS, Chennai.**

"One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind," said Neil Armstrong when he became the first man to set foot on the moon.

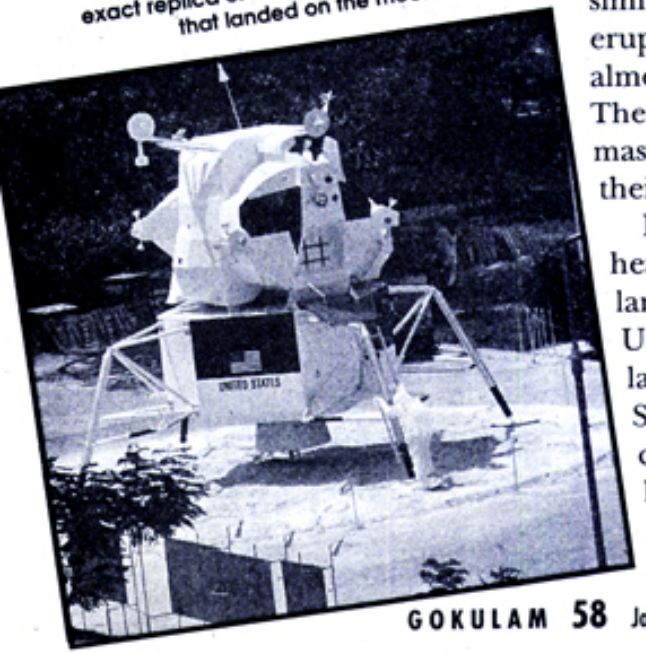
After collecting samples of the lunar soil he and his collegues returned to earth. However, the instruments they left behind continued to send their observations about the moon.

# SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR!

A series of Apollo spacecrafts were developed after this expedition. The aim was to make more manned space flights to the moon. These expeditions yielded valuable information about the moon.

* The men who landed on the moon

* The model of Apollo moonship. This is an exact replica of the Lunar Excursion Module that landed on the moon.



Astronomers are still attempting to find the origin of the earth and the universe. They have found that the age of the earth and the moon are nearly the same - about four billion and 600 million years.

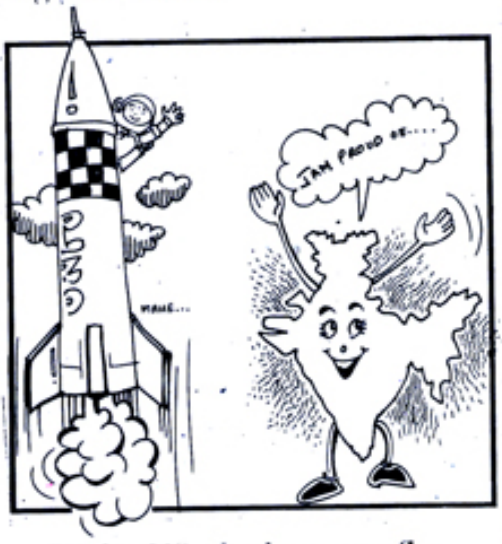
Earth and moon do not have a similar history. Active volcanic eruptions ceased on the moon almost three billion years ago. The pre-historic samples of any mass are available on the moon in their original form.

Besides earth, moon is the only heavenly mass where man has landed or has had a glimpse of. Unmaned spacecrafts have landed on other planets too. Soon man may establish a colony on the moon! Who knows?

**L. Sheeba, age 15, Mettupalayam.**

## Indian woman in space

Kalpana Chawala became the first Indian woman to go to space. She was born in Karnal district of Haryana in an orthodox family. She took up aeronautical engineering. Despite stiff opposition from her family she went to the US for higher studies.




In the US, she learnt to fly. On 19 Nov. 1997, the 37-year old Haryana engineer went into space. She was engaged in a 16-day research mission on the space shuttle Columbia. The research was about a free-fly satellite to study the sun. The mission was a success. May India produce more women like her.

**G. Krishnapriya,**
**age 17,**
**Coimbatore.**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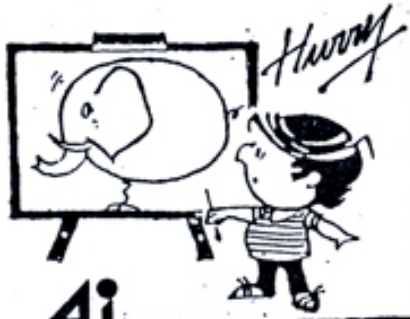


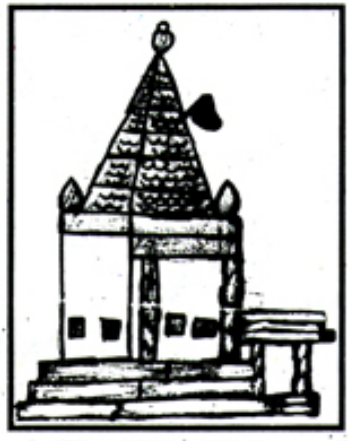

**A.J. ART COURSE**
Meenakshi Apartments
1st Cross, Dhandeeswaram,
Velachery, Chennai - 600 042.

Rohini Krishnan, age 10,
Anna Adarsh Mat. School,
Chennai.

Preeti J. Nambiar, Std. VIII C,
KV, Kannur

Menaka Chandrasekhar, age 12,
Bethany High School,
Bangalore.

# GOKULAM ART GALLERY

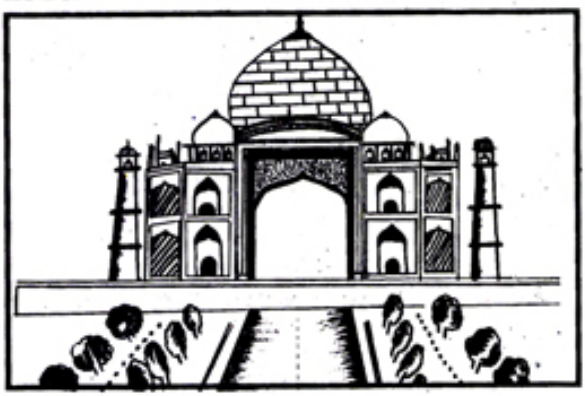


Aswini, age 8,
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
Vidhyalaya, Borivli (W), Mumbai.

D. Mamatha, Std. VI C,
Cluny Convent, Jalahalli,
Bangalore.

V.A. Shaji, Std. V B,
Albany Hall PS, Calcutta.

S. Nivedita, Std. IX C,
Alpha MHSS,
Chennai.



M. Tina, Std. VII
Shrine Vailankkani SSS,
Chennai.

B.C. Krishnaveni,
Std. VII A,
Bhavan's Sriramakrishna
Vidhyalaya,
Secunderabad.

Manoj, N.K. Std. IX
St. Anne's HS, Nadiad.

# GRANDMA WORM

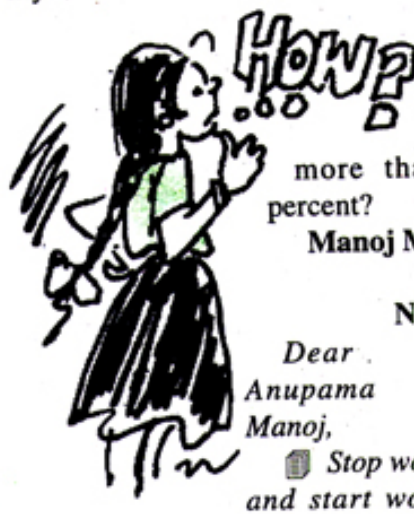
I am a student of Std. VIII. I find maths and English very difficult. I try to score good marks but yet get confused during exams and score only 70. What shall I do?

**Neha Ganesh,**
**Mumbai.**

I am a CBSE stu- dent of standard VIII. I studied well for my preparatory exams. I scored very low. I had expected better marks. My parents have been scolding me for this. The annual exams are approaching. What shall I do to score more than 95 percent?

**C.K. Anupama,**
**Balodyana Eng. School, Mysore.**

When I was in Std. VIII I scored very good marks. But in standard IX, my marks went down. How can I score more than 90 percent?




**Manoj Madhu Bala,**
**Neyveli.**

*Dear Neha, Anupama and Manoj,*

*Stop worrying and start working. Put up a time-table chart in your room. Give yourself practice tests. Sleep well the night before exams. Above all pray to God, and draw strength from him.*

I am in standard X. As I can speak very well in English, my pronunciation is very different. In school, everyone laughs at my English because it is not the way they talk. I am upset. Please help.

**Anita Sonia, age 14,**
**Bangalore.**

*Dear Anita,*

*You should be proud that you*

*peak very well in English. Don't bother — about other people teasing you. Remember, speaking a language the way it should be spoken is an asset.*

I am in standard VIII. I used to study well but am unable to concentrate now. My mother calls me useless. Please help.

**J. Arun, age 12, Coonoor.**

*Dear Arun,*

*You have no excuse for not studying. Develop systematic habits of reading the lessons. Sleep well. Interact with the teachers.*

I am a student of standard VI. I am very short. My friends tease me a lot. Please advise.

**Vipin Shenoy, age 11, Vishakhapatnam.**

*Dear Vipin,*

*Napoleon was short. Did he not become great? Be tall in your aims. Besides you have seven years atleast before you can begin to worry about your height. Try some exercises or practise yogasana. Participate enthusiastically in sports in school. Stop developing an inferiority complex. Ignore friends who tease you.*

I leave for school at 7.30 a.m. and reach home at 6 p.m. I go to bed at 11 p.m. I can't get up at 5 a.m. which I have to! My school is far from home. We work on some Saturdays too. I can't study my portions. The strain is telling on my health.

**J. Manju, Tanjore.**

*Dear Manju,*

*To improve your health, besides healthy food, you must sleep for a minimum of seven hours. You can go to bed at 10 p.m. if you are not watching TV. On your way to school and back try to recall the lessons of the day instead of just gazing out of the window.*

*You have atleast two hours to study in the evening, apart from Sundays. All the best!*

**Love,**
**Grandma worm**

# THE MAN IN A BLACK JACKET

When the driver of the bus took his seat, all the passengers in the bus heaved a sigh. The driver switched on the pocket transistor. A tamil film song was being broadcast. He checked for the tone and the volume. Soon, the song was interrupted for a special announcement.

"The police are still on the look-out for the man who robbed a city bank of Rs. 30 crore. The culprit is six feet tall. He wears a black leather jacket and jeans. The man may possess firearms." Singaram wondered who would capture the culprit.

Just then the conductor blew the whistle. Singaram switched off the radio and revved up the engine. The bus wound its way through the traffic.

Singaram was an experienced driver. The bus was overcrowed. School-children jostled for space with office-goers.

Singaram always surveyed his passengers on the rearview mirror in the bus. He gasped at the image that appeared on the mirror. He did not halt at the next stop. Some who wanted to alight cried out, "hold on.... hold on..." Singaram turned a deaf ear to all these pleas. He summoned the conductor and said something to him in a low voice.

Singaram stepped on the accelerator. The bus shot through the crowded roads. He began singing a popular film song, much to the ire of the passengers.

He leaned forward and removed a daily calendar that

hung on a nail near the first-aid box. He was pleased that he had bought some sweets before embarking on this trip. The sweets and the transistor were meant for his son. The driver gave the sweets and the calendar to the conductor.

The conductor wrote something on the back of each calendar sheet. He wrapped a sweet in each sheet and threw it out of the window. Some of them landed on cyclists, some on pedestrains.

The bus had whirred past four stops. The people in the bus were now very angry. One said, "the heat must have got to him." Another passenger said, "He is drunk." A third man said,"'Can't one of you jump and call the police?"

No one wanted to risk jumping from a running bus. The people on the street ran helter-skelter as the bus rumbled past.

The bus was almost close to its final destination. A young man, dressed in a black jacket walked up to the driver and yelled, "Stop the bus will you? I want to get down."

Singaram turned a deaf ear to the request. By then many passengers who had been angered by the wayward driver were yelling at the driver. The conductor's chocolate missile hit a child standing on the footpath in one of the bus stops.

Kavitha was a student of class III in a city school. She picked up the paper missile and unfolded it. The letters on the sheet spurred her into action.

Shortly after, a convoy of police vehicles barred the path of the bus. Singaram stopped the bus when he saw the police. The passengers were elated. "Finally," they said to each other, "the police will handcuff him".

But that was not so. The police entered the bus and handcuffed the man in a black jacket.

Singaram was praised for his intelligence and for having helped to catch the culprit. Singaram, however, told the bewildered crowd that all credit went to Kavitha, the little girl who was happily chatting with her friends.

Kavitha said, "Conductor uncle threw a piece of paper at me near the Kalmandapam stop. I picked up the paper. It said, 'Dial 100 - inform police. The bank robber is in my bus.' I ran with the paper to the police station."

Singaram said, "His false moustache did not fool me."

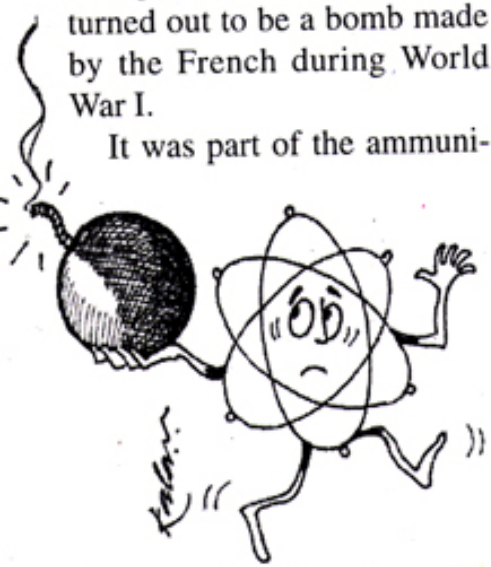
**R. Jawaharlal Paul,**
**Srivilliputtur.**

# SNIPPETS

## Safe bomb!

Workers in the harbour of Halifax, Canada, uncovered a strange object in April 1999. It turned out to be a bomb made by the French during World War I.

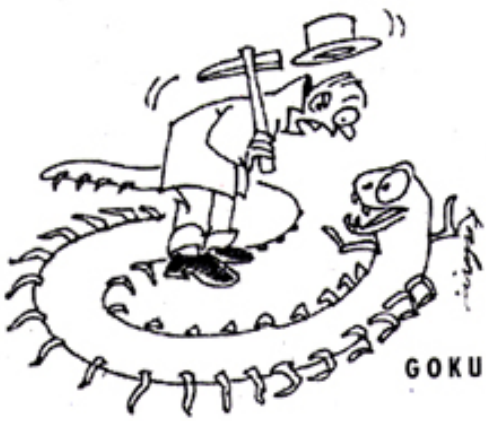
It was part of the ammuni-



tion stored in a French warship - 'Mont Blanc'. The ship exploded in 1917 when it collided with a Belgian vessel in Halifax harbour. It was the biggest pre-atomic era man-made explosion. About 2000 people were killed in the explosion.

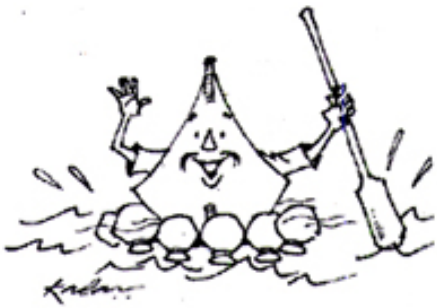
## Giant centipede

German archaeologists have unearthed the fossil of a giant centipede. The organism measuring 2 mts. in length, existed about 296 million years ago. The fossil was discovered in East Germany. It is known as 'Arthropleura'. The centipede was 50 cms. thick.



## Boats of yore

The Chinese have uncovered the remains of a 4000



year-old boat — the world's oldest boat. It was found in the Changshan islands in Bohai Bay (along China's eastern coast).

Archaeologists have found earthern pots around the boat which date back to the Langshan or Yueshi cultures.

## Books, books and more books!

Thomas Alva Edison was not merely a great inventor. After his death, about 3500

note- books were found in his room. They contain several autobiographical details.

### 'Smash' record

Imagine smashing 4.2 mts. of tiles with the elbow in 9.87 seconds.

Meet Henri Baldin Bressort, a 35 year old martial arts teacher in Grenoble, France. He smashed 14 piles of six tiles each. They were each five centimetres thick.

### Temple of this millennium

Do you know that the Khajuraho

temples are a thousand years old? A ninth century Chandela temple, larger than any existing ones, was discovered near Khajuraho. It was the result of the excavation by a team from the Archaeological Survey of India. The 934 mt. sandstone foundation (Jagathi) of the temple held carvings and sculptures.

**Suresh K. Anjum, Calcutta.**

## RIDDLES

**Q** : Which two vegetables begin and end with two letters in the same order?

**A** : Tomato and Onion!

**Q** : Is there a word in the english language that contains all vowels?

**A** : Unquestionably!

**Rashmi.V. Brid., Std. VIII A, Manjunatha Vidhyalaya, Dombivli (E), Thane.**

# A FATAL WISH

In the Central Provinces lived a trader called Ram Janak. He had three extraordinarily talented men working for him. One of them, Sunder, was handsome and charming. Another, Bhima was very strong. The last, Shankar, had unusual intelligent prowess. The three worked hand in hand and their boss was very pleased.

One day the three friends decided to take a holiday and travel together to

## SCIENCE ACTIVITY

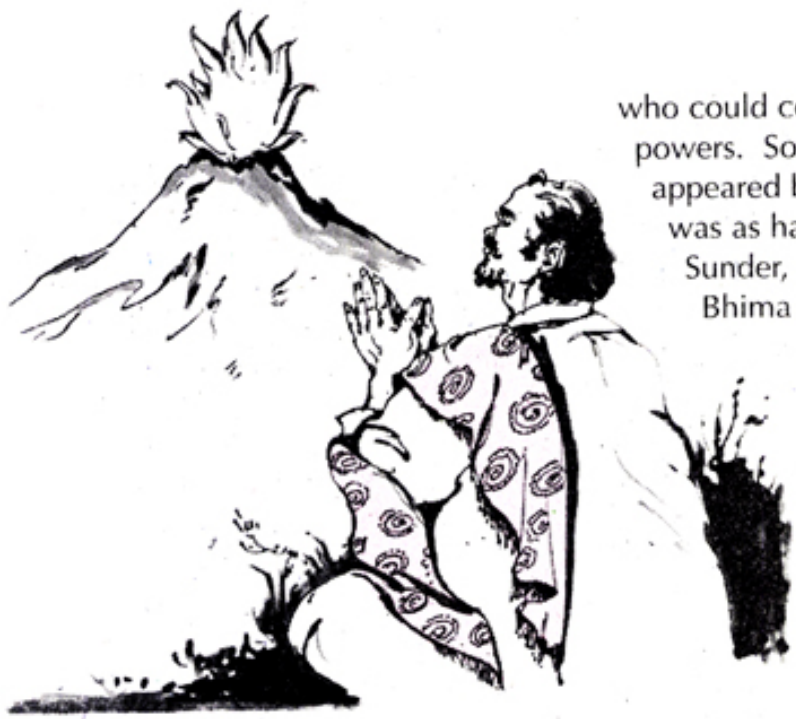
# THE MAGIC EGG TRICK

*Things needed :*

Two glasses, salt, two eggs.

*Procedure :*

Mix plenty of salt (about 10 heaped teaspoons) into a half glass of water. Fill the second glass half full of fresh water. Try floating an egg in each glass. You will find that the egg will float in the salt water and



different places for a change. They reached a mountain called Shristi. It was believed that the person who could light a fire on top of the mountain would be granted all his wishes.

The three friends climbed the mountain and as they lit a fire on the top a fairy appeared before them. It asked them what they wished for. They asked for a man who could combine all their powers. Soon, a man appeared before them. He was as handsome as Sunder, as strong as Bhima and as intelligent as Shankar. The three friends thought that they could use him to work while they rested.

The men took their find to Ram Janak, expecting a reward for their find. Ram Janak thought, 'if this man can do the work of these three men then why should I employ them? It is cheaper for me to employ just this man.'

The three friends realised that their greed had led them to their present unenviable condition.

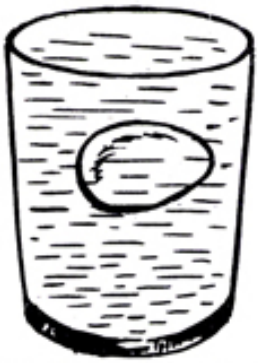
**Suraj Shetty, Std. X,**
**St. Mark's HS, Secunderabad.**

---

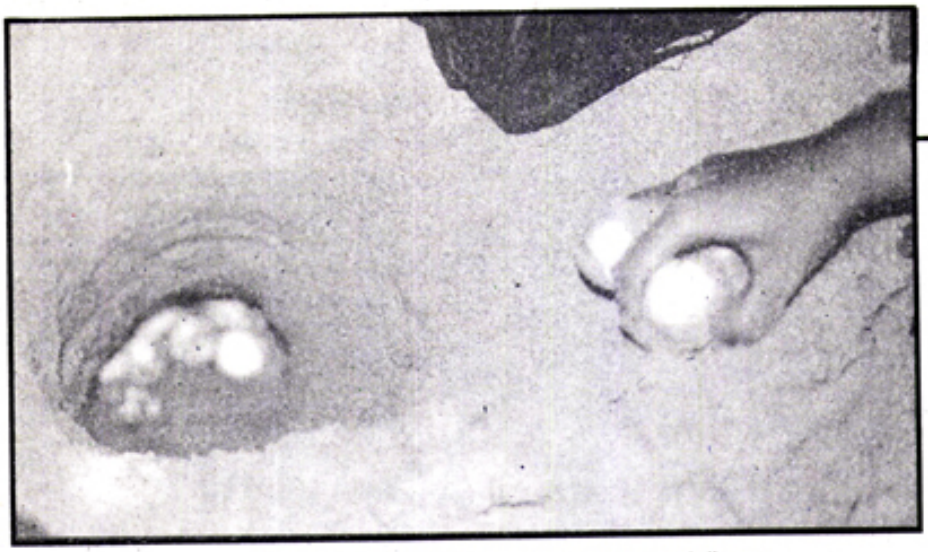
will sink in fresh water. An egg is less dense than salt water and is more dense than fresh water.

Now try the magic trick.

Fill one glass full of fresh water and one half full of salt water as before. Then, very carefully, pour the fresh water into the salt water. Don't let the liquids mix. Gently lower the egg into the water. It will float on the salt water and look as if it is suspended in the middle of the glass by magic!



**S. Shankar, age 13,**
**P.S.S.S.School,**
**Mylapore, Chennai.**

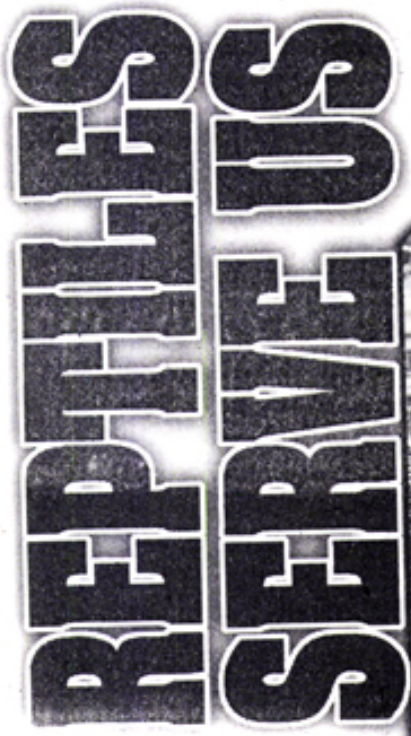


* Eggs of monitor lizards and turtles are a delicacy.

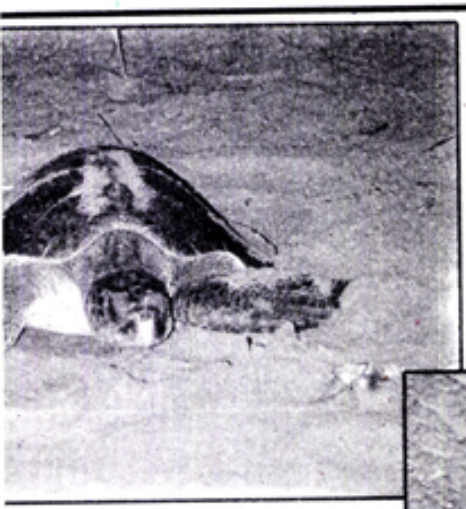
Crocodiles keep down the populations of predatory fishes in lakes and rivers. Turtles check the growth of water weeds. Some turtles, inhabiting the river Ganges and its tributaries, feed upon the half-cremated corpses thrown in the river. Thus they help in the recycling of nutrients and keep the river system clean.

Lizards and snakes mostly feed on different kinds of insects including the pest species. By eating insects, rats and mice, many of which may carry disease and damage crops, snakes perform a major ecological role. No snake is vegetarian. This is to our advantage.

Snakes are perfectly suited to follow the rat down to its hole and devour both the young and adult at one go. The life-saving antivenom drug for curing snakebites is produced from the saliva of the venomous snakes.




Since time immemorial, turtles of all kinds



* Turtles keep the river system clean.

of crocodiles, 32 species of turtles, 160 species of lizards and 250 species of snakes. Of these, only a few crocodiles and snakes are really dangerous to human life. It is estimated that nearly 15,000 people die every year due to snakebite. It is not an alarming rate of mortality compared with the number of deaths caused due to accidents and other natural or man-made calamities.

* Lizards prey on insects and pests thus keeping diseases at bay.

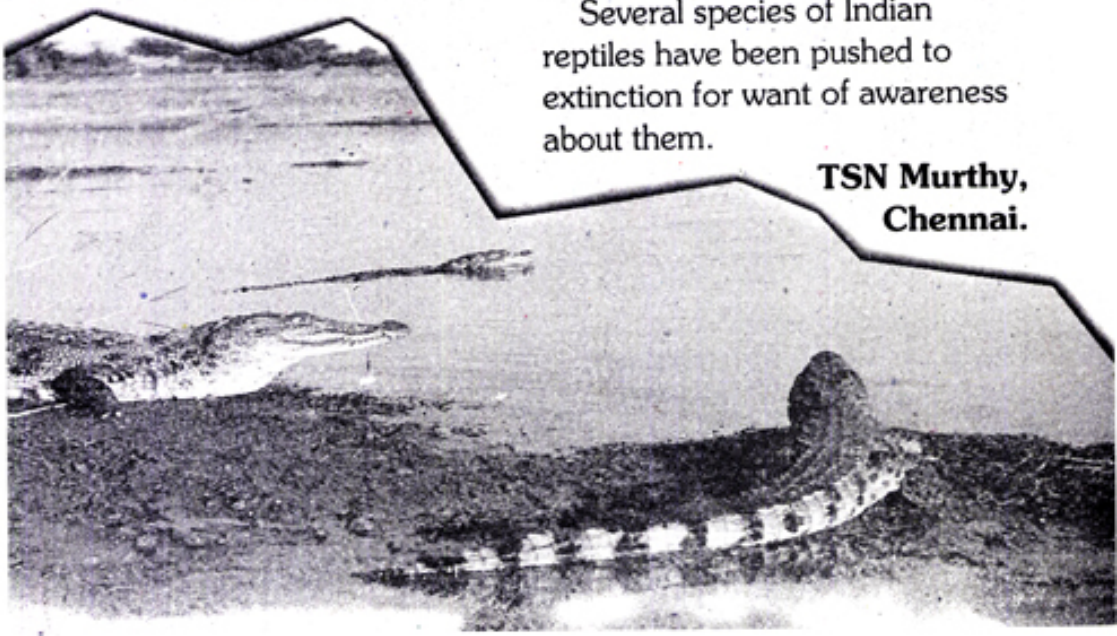
are esteemed as food. The eggs of monitor lizards are a great delicacy. The demand for the skin of some reptiles such as the crocodiles, monitor lizards and the rat snake is well known.

India is home to three species

Several species of Indian reptiles have been pushed to extinction for want of awareness about them.

**TSN Murthy, Chennai.**

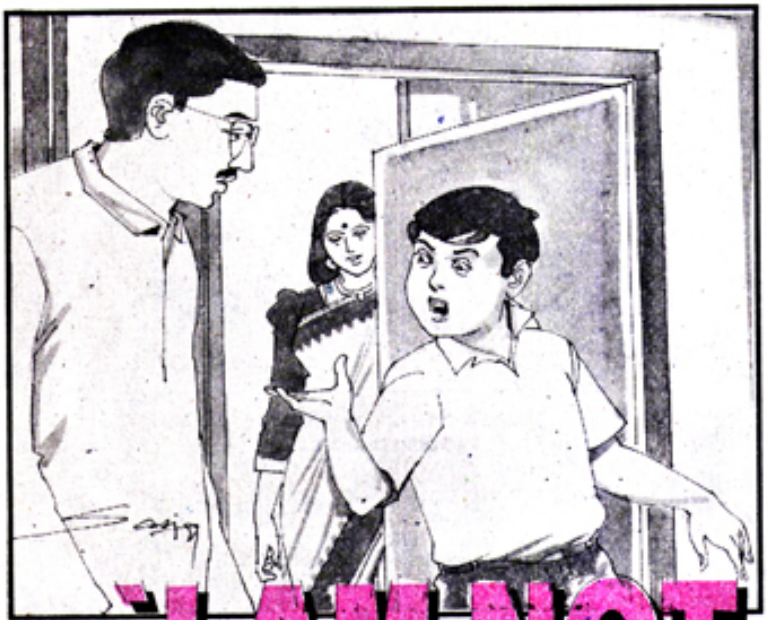
* Crocodiles keep a check on the population of predatory fish.



# 'I AM NOT BAD!'

Vettri was a fourteen year old boy who studied in a reputed school. He disliked everyone, including his parents. His relatives maintained a safe distance from him because of this.

Vettri loved to play. He often neglected his studies. When Raju, a cousin, advised him to stop wasting time in play he retorted, "Mind your business, I know what to do."



"Why do you behave like this?" Raju asked Vettri. Vettri replied, "I am bad." He continued to be rude with everyone.

Vettri was stopped on the way by a classmate. Vasu and Vettri never hit it off well. A terrible quarrel followed. The boys exchanged punches. Vasu had wanted to take revenge on Vettri for tearing his maths textbook.

Vettri soon lost out in the fight. Vasu and a friend bundled a wounded Vettri into a sack and left him by a bush.

Meanwhile, Vettri's parents and uncles were worried when Vettri did not return home that evening. They searched for him everywhere. Finally, they found a wounded Vettri in a sack.

After three days Vettri was well enough to return to school. It was only in these three days that he understood the need for love and affection.

He did not, however, want to express it. "I am not bad," he shouted. "I am not bad."

Tears rolled down from his father's eyes when he heard these words.

**V. Karthik, age 17, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidhyalaya, Madurai.**

* The World Football Championship is to be held jointly in Japan and Korea in 2002. These are the mascots for the championship.

# CENTURY'S TOPPERS

## Best sportspersons

The ten best sportspersons of 20th century include two women. One is a swimmer - Dawn Fraser. The other is a gymnast - Nadia, who was the first gymnast to score a perfect 10. Also on the list is Muhammad Ali, the greatest man in his sport.

## Carrom

India made a clean sweep of the first Malaysian Open International carrom championship. In both men's and women's finals India beat Sri Lanka. India has won all the four events.

## Hockey

After a tough match India lost out to S. Korea in the finals of the women's hockey event. Earlier, India had edged past China. They were piped to qua- lify for the Olympics. China finished third with nine points.

## Cricket

Things have not been very smooth for Indian players in Australia. The Indians did poorly in the exhibition matches, though they have won one match. The first test was a disaster for Indians. There is still hope that India might make up for the lost matches.

## Olympic order

Tennis star Steffi Graf was presented the Olympic order by the International Olympic Committee president. She has won a gold medal in Olympics.

* Steffi Graf

## Russia wins

Russia won their first major volleyball title at the World cup Men's Championship. It is Russia's first victory in three major events, the Olympics, the World Championship and the World Cup since the fall of Soviet Union in 1991.

## Tennis

Lucknow will host the Davis Cup this year. After 25 years, Lucknow will be hosting the first round tie of the Asia/Oceania zone group from Feb. 4 to 6.

Australia has won the Davis Cup for the 27th time. It is the first time since 1986 that Australia has won the cup.

# NEWSBITS

## A rare honour

In an opinion poll conducted recently by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), people overwhelmingly voted for an Indian. The poll was for the woman of the twentieth century. Former prime minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi edged past women like Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, former PM of Britain, Queen Elizabeth and Joan of Arc for this rare honour.

## Trichy, another Orissa?

If it was Orissa last month, then it was Tamil Nadu's turn this month. Quite a number of places in and around Trichy and Thanjavur were flooded after heavy rains. The monsoon instead of doing good was creating untold misery to the people here. Even after a week, people had to wade through knee-deep waters. Essential commodities like milk were in short supply.

## Once more!

India has won the Miss. World title for the fourth time. Amidst protests that beauty contests should be done away with, the Miss. World contest was held as usual. Of the 94 participants, Ms. Yukta Mookhey of Mumbai bagged the crown.

## 'People's century'

Former president of S. Africa Nelson Mandela, has suggested that the 21st century could be devoted to peace, equality and happiness among people. He wanted it to be declared the century of the people.

• Mandela

## Child prodigy

A young boy of 11 recently cleared his M.Sc. examination in Physics from Patna University in Bihar.

Tathagat Avtar Tulsi was only 11 years and 10 months. He is the youngest to have cleared class 10 examination. He will now re-enter the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the youngest boy to have gained a post-graduate degree.

• Indira Gandhi

# A LOST FRIEND

At the new co-ed school, I hadn't a single friend. I was feeling lost. And then Deepa came. I met her at a science merit test. We spent long hours together after the test. Soon, we became good friends. We studied together for the pre-boards.

Deepa and I resolved not to part ways ever. She said she had had a wonderful time with me. She gave me a locket. Her name was engraved on it. I gave her my fountain pen.

After the exams we kept in touch through 'phone. One day I called her up. Her uncle took the call. I asked to speak to Deepa.

He informed me that Deepa had passed away the previous day. She had been electrocuted while trying to switch off the geyser. She had to be cremated immediately.

I still miss her.

**Sudhakshana Nagarajan,**
**Std. X.**
**DTEA SSS,**
**N. Delhi.**

# GUM FACTS

Bubble gum was first produced in 1906. But it was not perfected and sold until 1928. More than 1000 years ago, the Mayan Indians of Mexico chewed chicle.

American Indians chewed gum that they made from the sap of spruce trees. The part of gum that does not dissolve during chewing is called 'gum base'.

It is made of various waxes, resins (sticky substances from plants and trees) and latexes (milky juices) found in plants. The gum-base in bubble gum is more elastic than the gum base in chewing gum. The stretchier the gum base the easier it is to blow bubbles with bubble gum.

**Suresh K. Anjum, Calcutta.**

# CHOOSING A CAREER

The best time to decide on your future is when you are eleven or twelve. By thirteen, you would be busy preparing for your board exams. Review your score card. How do you fare in each of the subjects offered in school? Do you have a special liking for some subject? Parents often guide their children in their choice of career. Some - times, desires go to naugh for want of marks.

No career is lucrative unless we put in the needed hardwork. You could be a geologist or a scientist or a lawyer. If you excel in your chosen profession, then you will end up with a lucrative career.

If you choose medicine and could find no place in mainstream medicine, never mind. You could branch off to dentistry, veterinary science or even para-medical science.

If you choose engineering and flounder, then look for architecture or the industrial training institutes. They offer you a variety of courses.

If you have an aptitude for language, then it would be wise to learn a foreign language. You will earn handsomely by becoming a translator. Do you enjoy the performing arts - like singing, dancing and acting?

Then academics is not for you. Choose the art form that you like the most. Train yourself. Learn from a good master in the field.

Do you enjoy tending plants? Or do you enjoy tend- ing the sick? You could then become a horticulturist or a

nurse.

You hate studies but love making dolls or playing with clay lumps? Can you turn a ball of clay around? You have a lovely model of Ganesh in your hands? Why worry? Learn pottery. If you are a good artist who has a way with the paint and the brush, then there are colleges that offer you degree courses in arts and crafts.

Each of us has a talent. We may not have explored ourselves. It would be best to look at yourselves first. It is a boon if you can choose the career closest to your heart. In today's competitive world, you may often have to compromise. In that case, it would be best to be prepared for the dis- appointments in future.

Most of our career decisions are based on the lucrativeness of the profession in future. The grass is always greener on the other side. Being an engineer or a doctor or a lawyer may seem the only way to a secure future. Today, a mere MBBS or a BE doesn't ensure you a hefty salary.

With competition dictating the future it is sensible to decide on a career even when you are in school. Work towards your goal and always have two or three options on hand. Though you may lose out in your first choice you will surely have another option. This will also save you the trouble of having to make a choice at the last moment. This choice may have to be made in a hurry.

You may then regret the career you chose after a few years. It will leave you unhappy and depressed. A happy future depends on planning.

A planned future will ensure you greater success in life and in your chosen profession.

**POEM**

# WHEN I WAS

When I was a baby
I saw my mother,
When I was sent to school,
I saw my teacher and friends
When I was sick
I saw nurses and doctors
When I slept
I had a wonderful dream
When I was in unhappy,
I saw nothing but god everywhere.

**Pooja Rani K.P., Std. VIII,**
**S.B. High School, Karkala.**

*Dear Pooja Rani, pl. send your house address.*

EXPERIENCE

## The chain snatcher

I was travelling to Shimla by bus with my mother. A movie was being shown. In the movie, a fearful-looking man sneaked up to a girl of my age and snatched the chain she wore around her neck. I was engrossed in the movie.

Suddenly, I felt a hand touch my neck. I too wore a chain. I screamed to alert the other passengers in the bus.

A few passengers came up to where I sat. My mother said that she had run her fingers around my neck to check if the chain was in place.

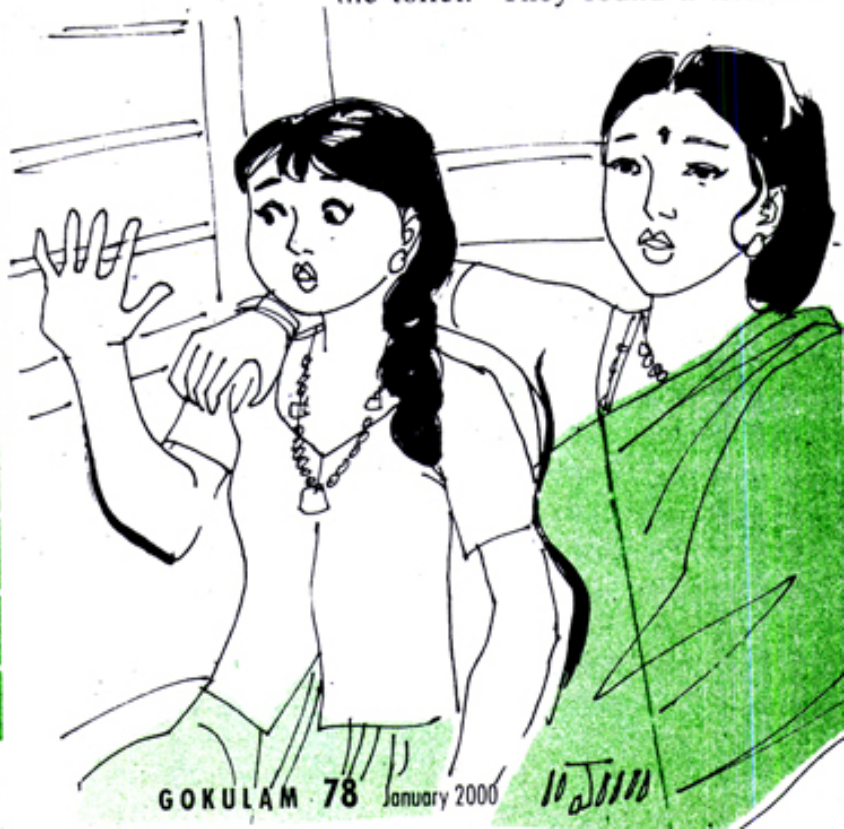
The passengers stared at me. I grinned sheepishly. I don't concentrate much on movies shown in buses now.

**G. Priya, Std. VIII,**
**Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidhyalaya, Hyderabad.**

## Caught in the toilet

This happened when my mother was five. She and grandma were returning to India from Bharain by plane. Mother needed to use the toilet. Grandma pointed out to her the direction the toilet lay in. Grandma soon dozed off.

Meanwhile mother had locked herself in the toilet. Try as she might, she couldn't release the latch. The plane was preparing to land. Grandma woke up and was surprised to see that mother was not with her. She approached a flight attendent. Together, they managed to wrench open the door of the toilet. They found a terrified



mother weeping inside the toilet.

**P.V. Nimna, Std. V A,**
**Chinmaya Vidhyalaya, Kannur.**

## Forgotten holidays

One Friday I woke up early and bathed. Mother had laid the breakfast. I gobbled down the sandwich. It was 6.30 a.m. I had to leave for school at 6.45 a.m.

I approached my father for my weekly allowance. My brother who heard me burst out laughing. Everyone joined in the laughter. My brother then reminded me that the vacations had begun. I had forgotten an important thing indeed!

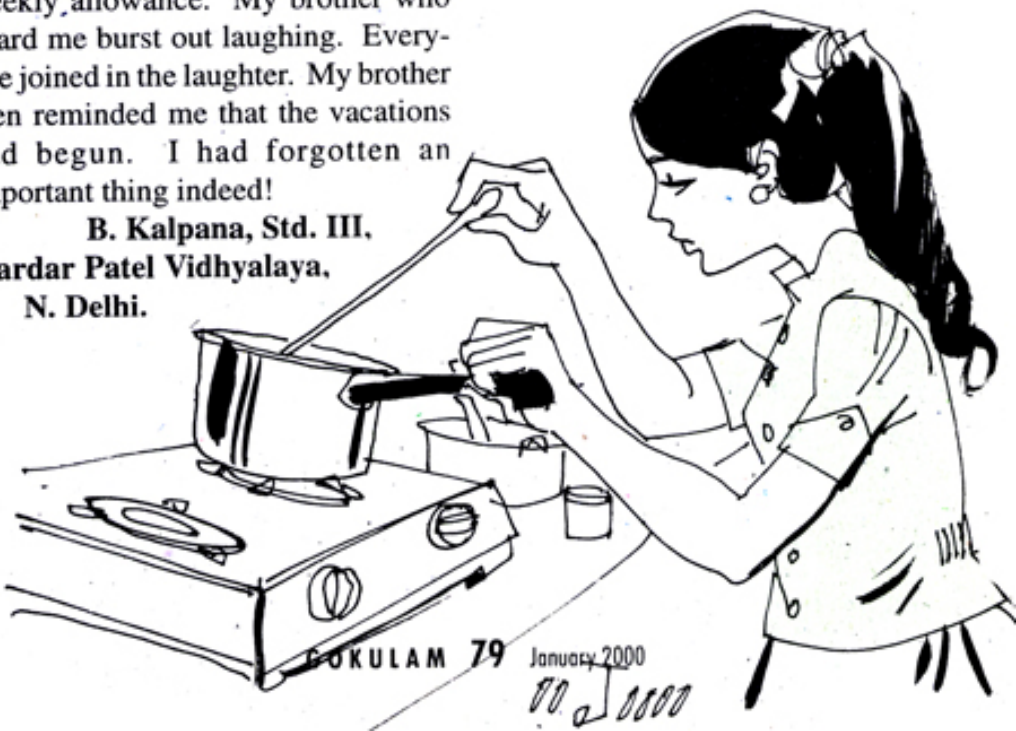
**B. Kalpana, Std. III,**
**Sardar Patel Vidhyalaya,**
**N. Delhi.**

## 'Master' chef

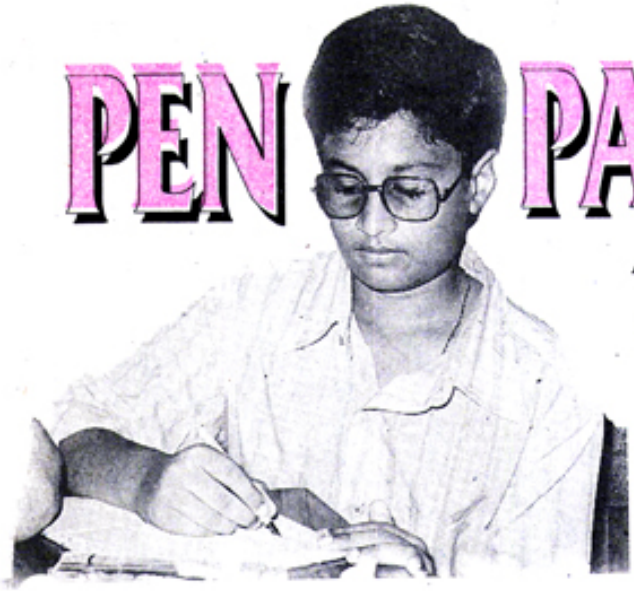
I was at a loose end. I decided to try out a recipe that I had recently learnt. I diligently followed the instructions. When the dish was finally made, I was pleased with my effort. I planned to surprise my mother with my culinary abilities. Since the taste of the pudding is in its eating, I decided to taste a little of what I had made.

I put a little of my preparation into my mouth. It tasted so horrible that I spat out the contents. I had to throw away the entire preparation. Later, my mother made the same recipe. It tasted wonderful. Now I know why mothers always make the best dishes.

**T.A. Saisudha, Std. X,**
**SKBM School, Calcutta.**



# PEN PALS



**Name : Hemabja, V.,**
Age : 17,
Address : 1/57, Ammangudi Village, Andanallur Post, Jeeyapuram, Trichy - 639 101.
Hobbies : Reading books, listening to music, cycling and gardening.

**Name : C. Santosh Kumar Jain,**
Age : 14,
Address : C 25/10, DRDO Complex, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore - 560 093.
Hobbies : Reading, coin/stamp collection, playing, collection of photographs of aircrafts and photography.

**Name : Mukul P. Joshi,**
Age : 15,
Address : 7/8, Radha Nivas, 178, Hindu Colony, Bhalchandra Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 014.
Hobbies : Reading, playing cricket, stamp collection, surfing net.

**Name : Somathi, G.,**
Age : 14,
Address : Sri Karthikeya Nilaya, No. 137/A, 6th Main, IV Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560 010.
Hobbies : Love reading books, esp. mystery stories, watching television, playing esp. basketball, roaming about in bicycle.

**Name : Bhavani Venkatachalam,**
Age : 12,
Address : No. 43-B, K.T.S. Mani Street, Mamallan Nagar, Kanchipuram, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu.
Hobbies : Reading books, painting, making friends and listening to old songs.

**Name : Sriram R. Das,**
Age : 13,
Address : Warrier OTZ, Ottapalam - 2. Palakkad District - 679 102.
Hobbies : Reading, playing cricket, riding bicycle and making friends.

**Name : S.M. Supreeth**
Age : 11,
Address : No. 7, Eswarar Nagar 1st Street, 1st Floor, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024.
Hobbies : Programming in computer, playing tennis and reading G.K. books.

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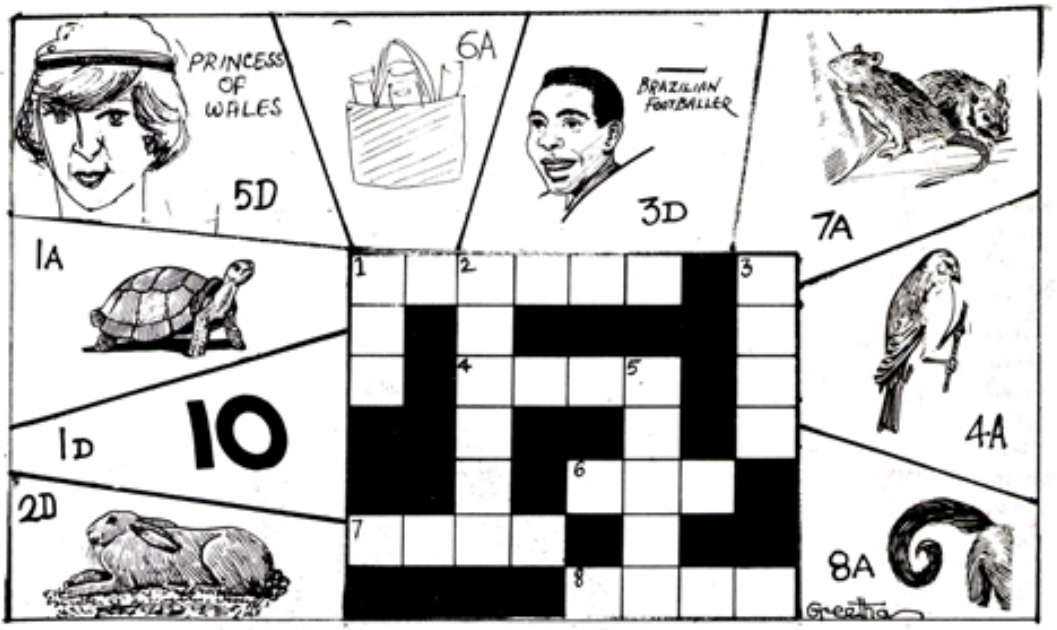
# FILL THIS




**Across :** 1 Turtle, 4 Bird, 6 Bag, Rats, 8 Tail
**Down :** 1 Ten, 2 Rabbit, 3 Pele, 5 Diana

# WHO AM I?

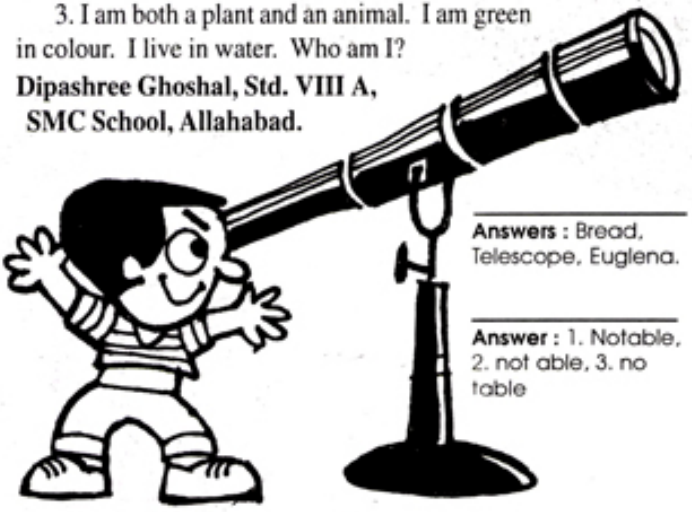
## GOKULAM FUN PAGE

1. I am made of flour and my name starts with the letter B. I have a boundary around me.

2. I was accidentally invented. Galileo the scientist used me to observe the sun and stars. My name starts with the letter 'T'.

3. I am both a plant and an animal. I am green in colour. I live in water. Who am I?

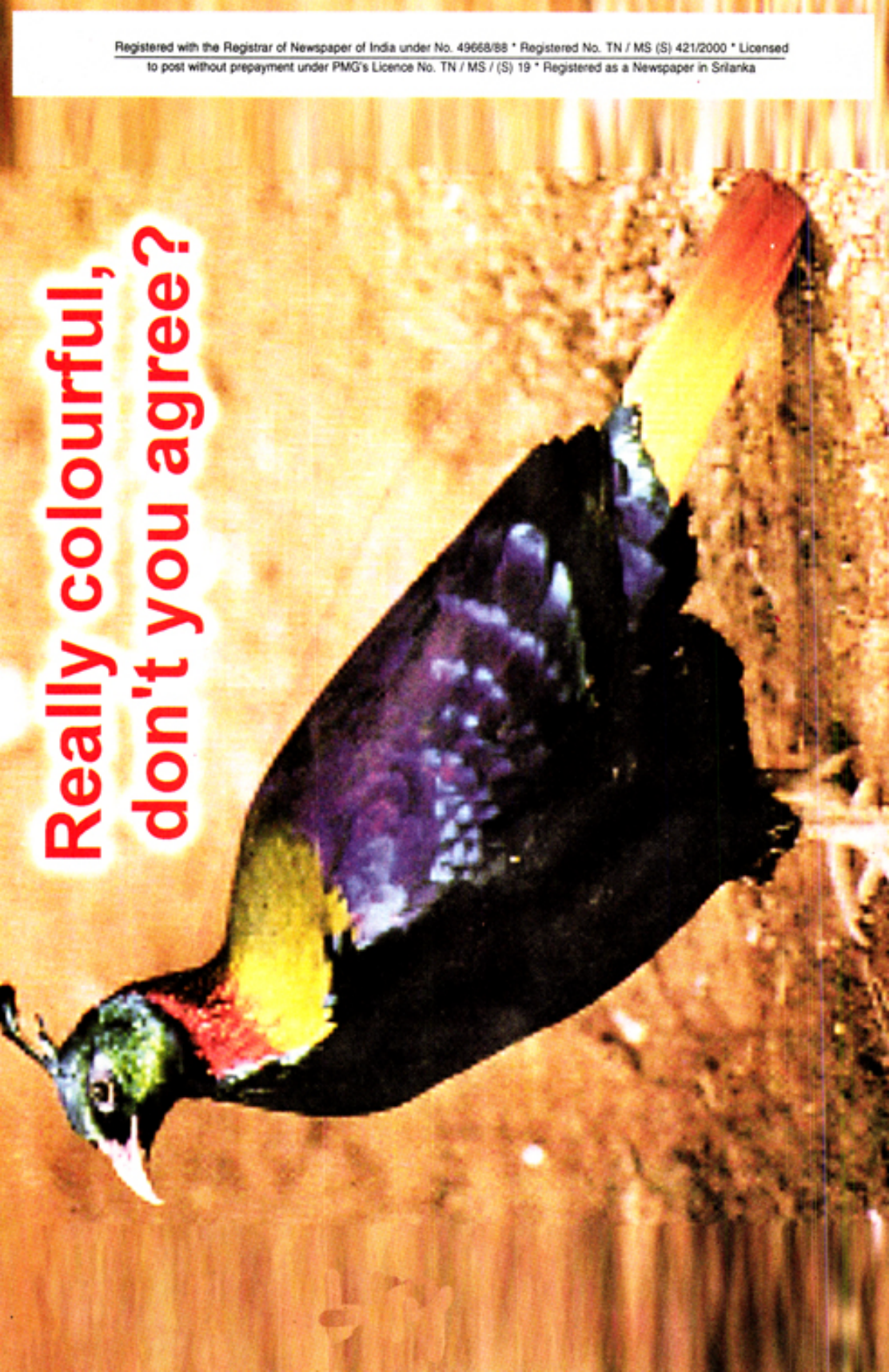
**Dipashree Ghoshal, Std. VIII A,**
**SMC School, Allahabad.**



**Answers :** Bread, Telescope, Euglena.

**Answer :** 1. Notable, 2. not able, 3. no table

Fill in the blanks using the word 'notable'.

1. A _____ doctor was 2. _____ _____ to perform the operation because there was 3. _____ _____.

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